

**DR**

# DeepRob

Lecture 6  
Backpropagation  
University of Michigan and University of Minnesota

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_1}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_2}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_3}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_4}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_5}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \text{Out}}$$



# Project 1 – Reminder

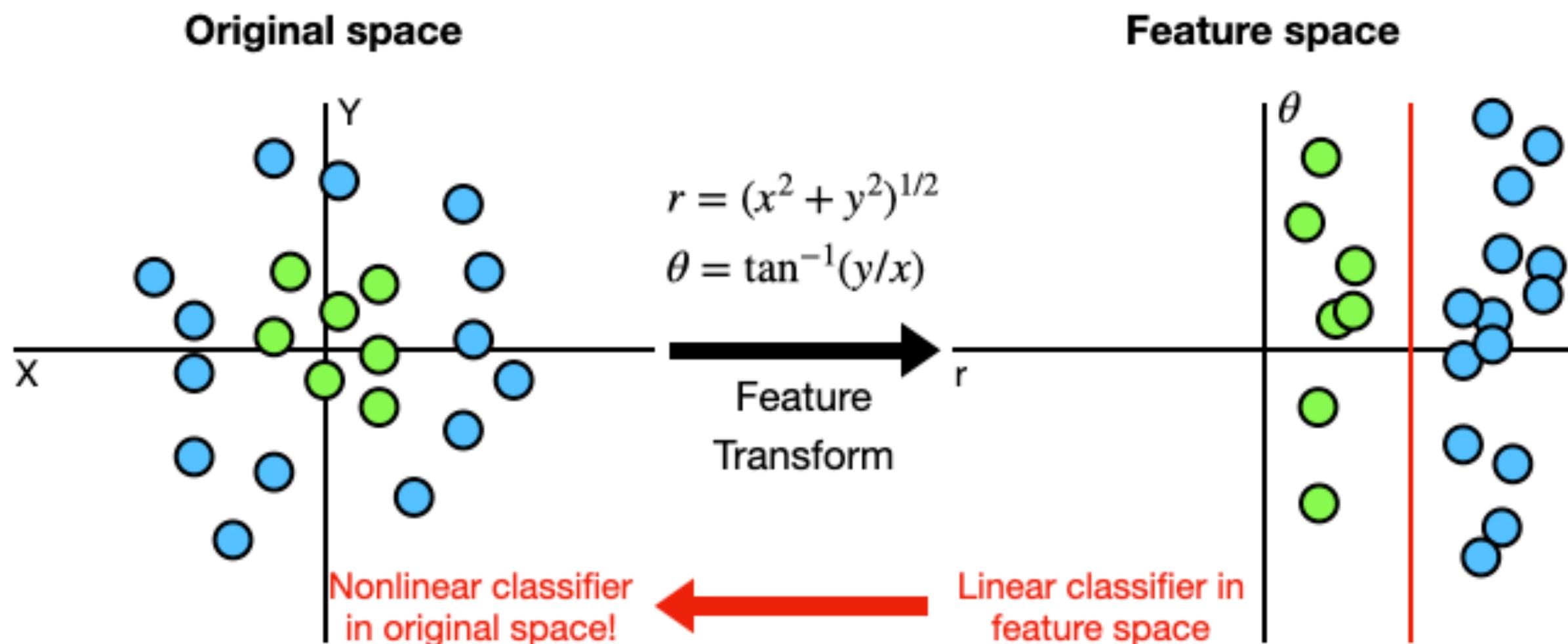
---

- Instructions and code available on the website
  - Here: [deeprob.org/projects/project1/](https://deeprob.org/projects/project1/)
- Uses Python, PyTorch and Google Colab
- Implement KNN, linear SVM, and linear softmax classifiers
- **Autograder is online and updated**
- **Due Thursday, January 26th 11:59 PM EST**

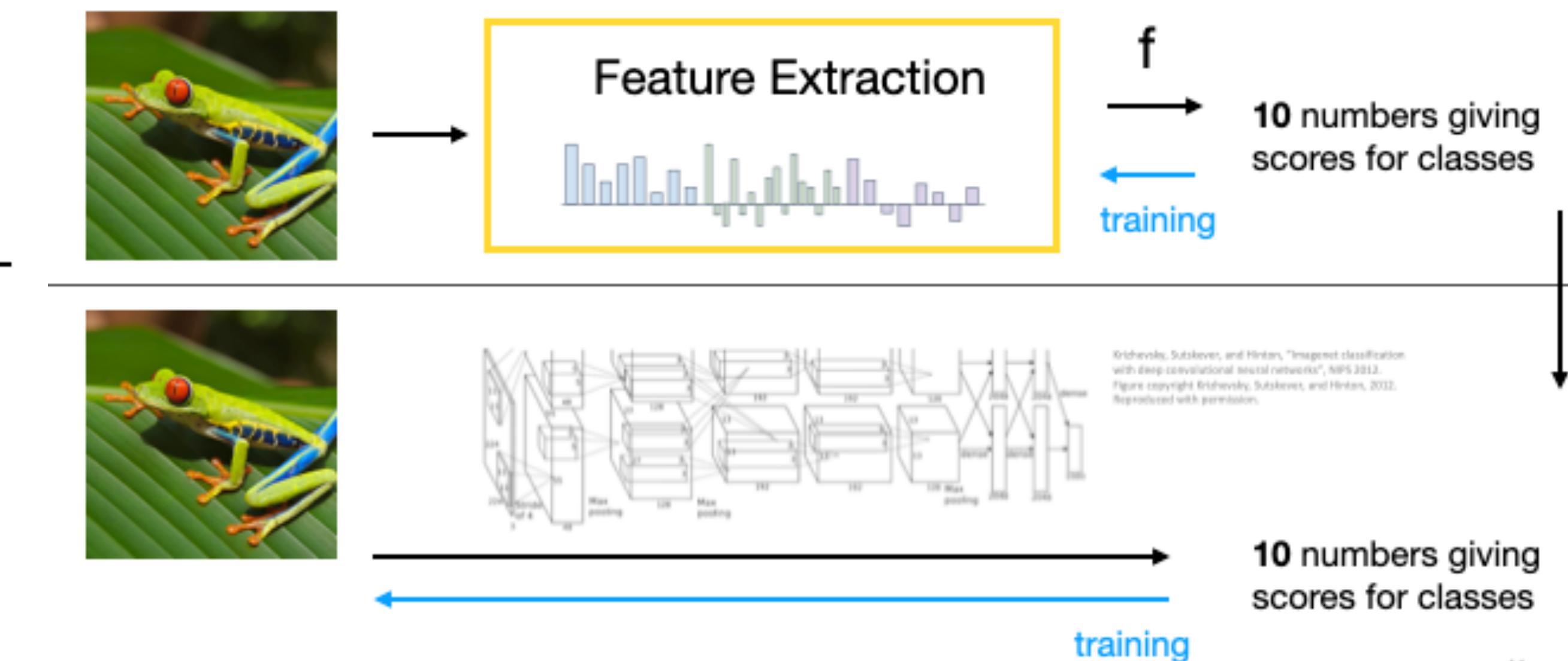


# Recap from Previous Lecture

Feature transform + Linear classifier allows nonlinear decision boundaries



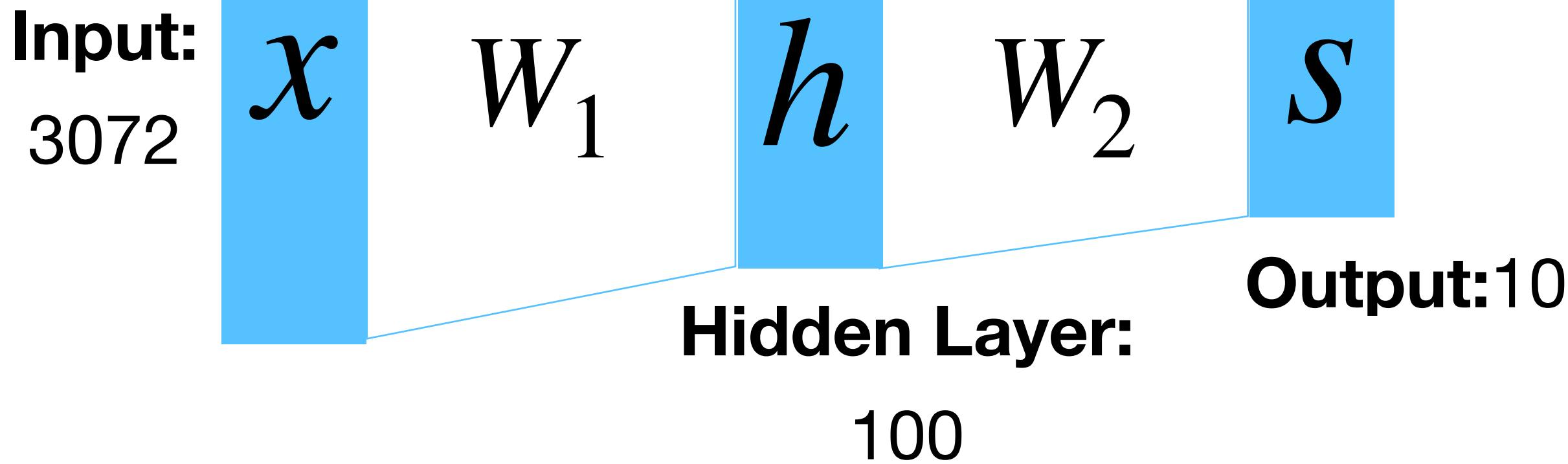
Neural Networks as learnable feature transforms



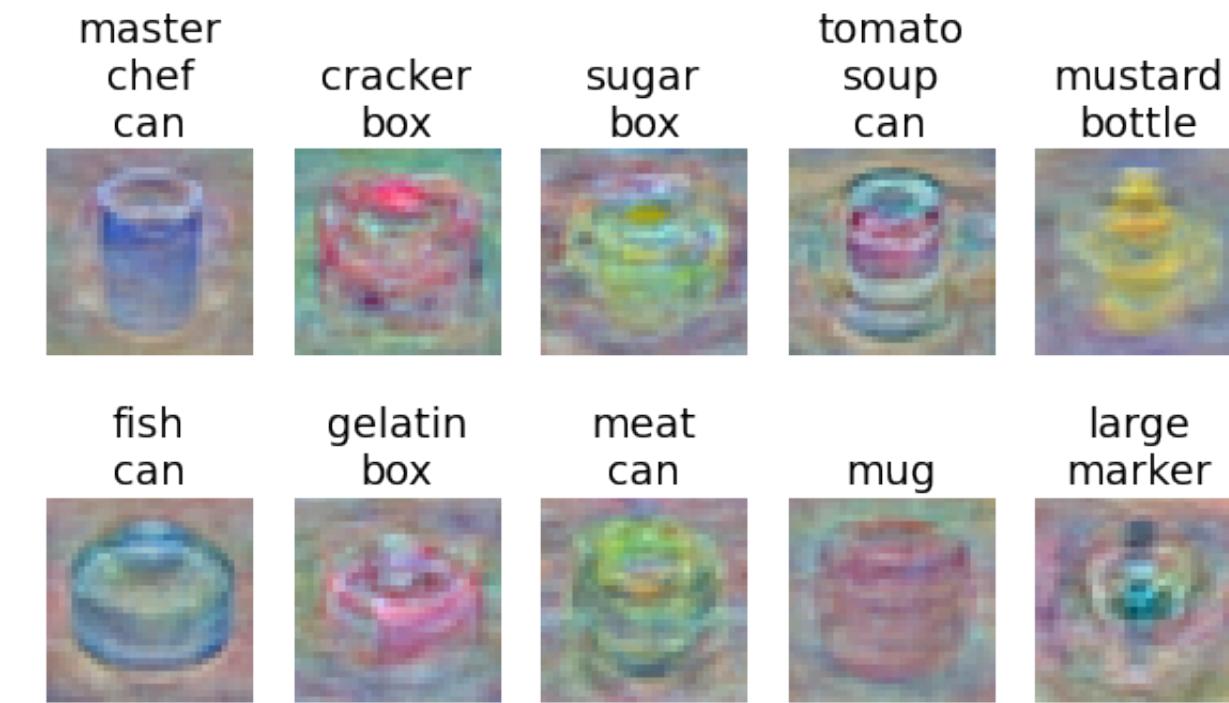
# Recap from Previous Lecture

From linear classifiers to  
fully-connected networks

$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$



Linear classifier: One template per class



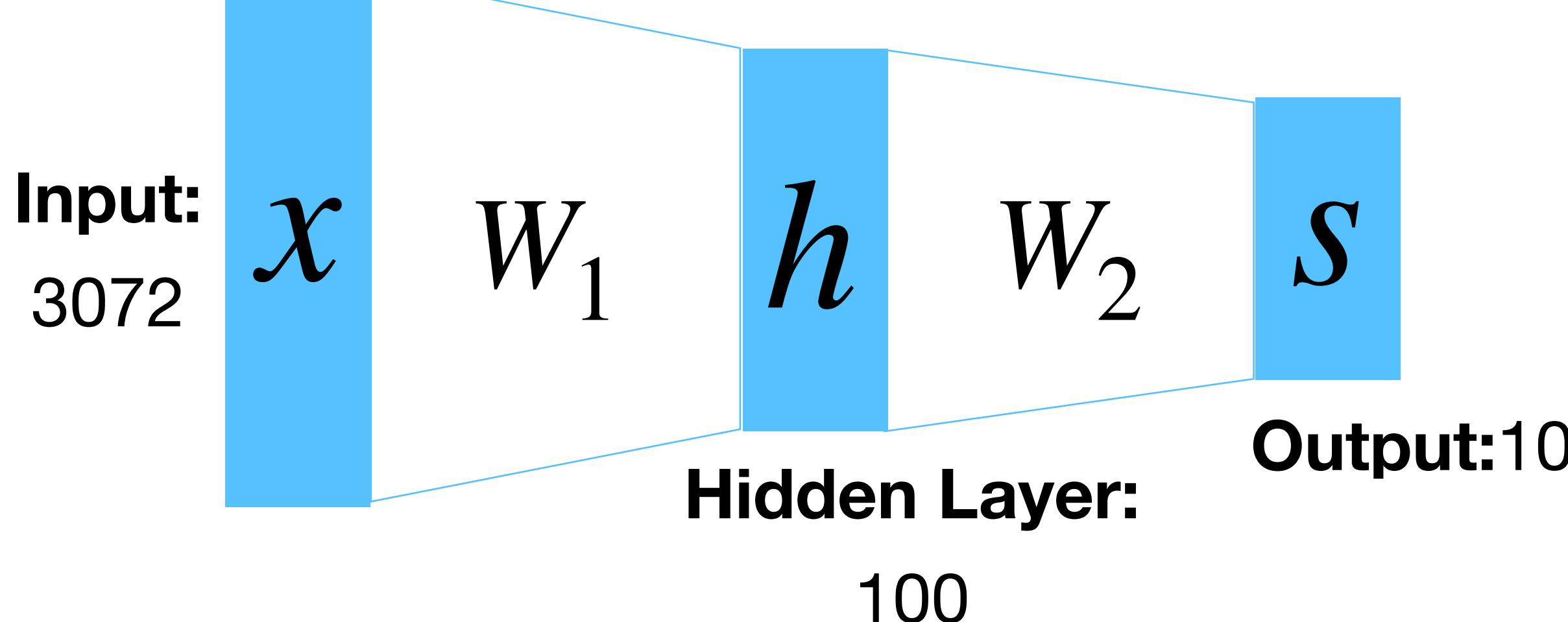
Neural networks: Many reusable templates



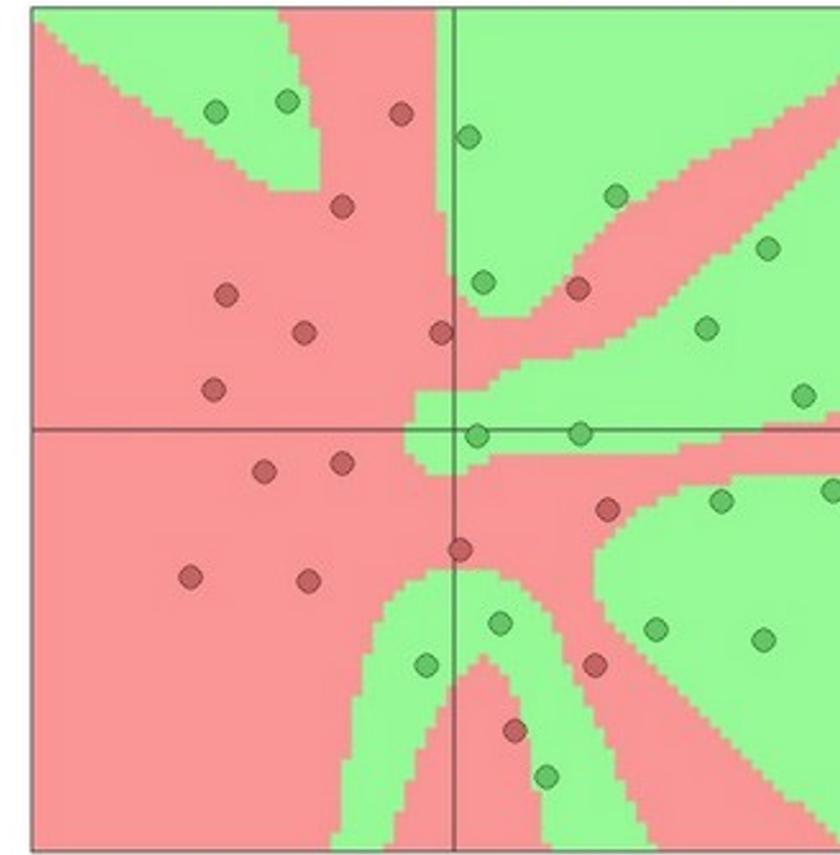
# Recap from Previous Lecture

From linear classifiers to  
fully-connected networks

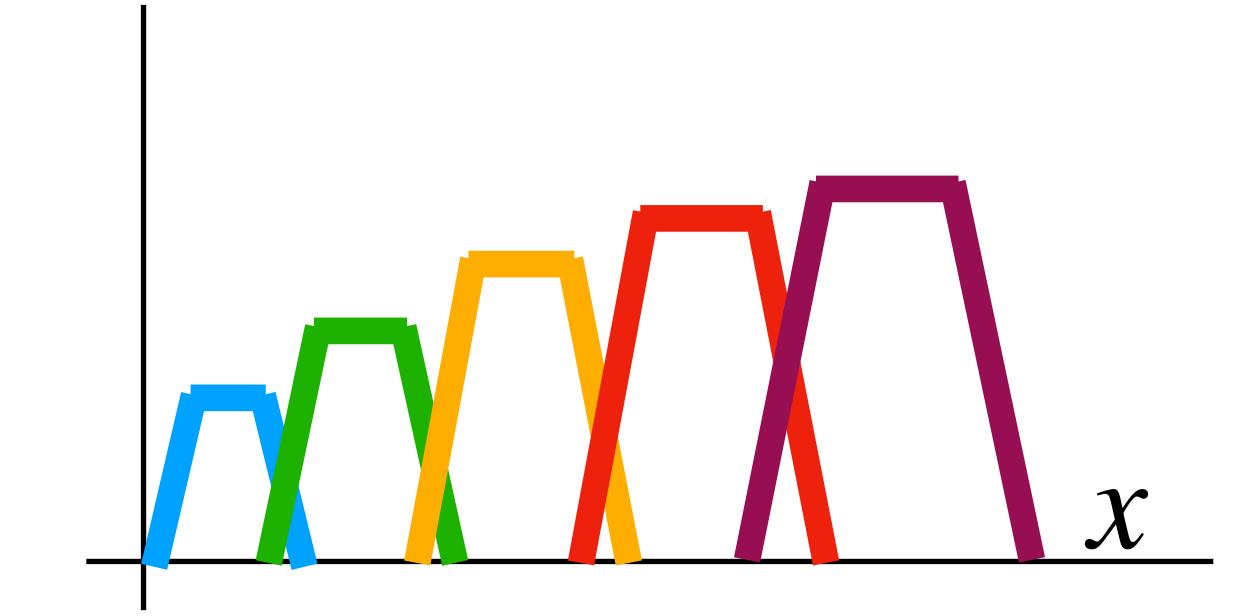
$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$



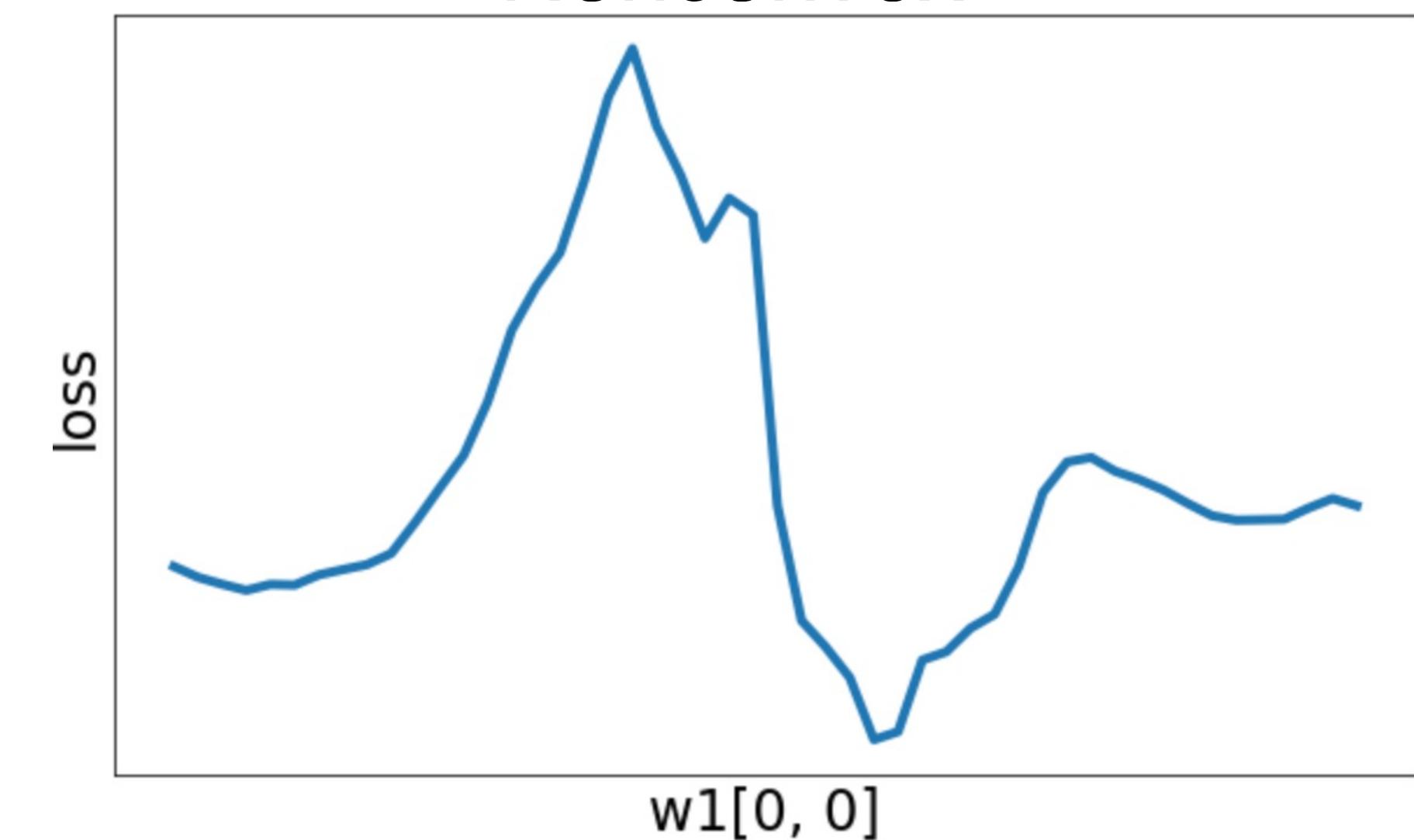
Space Warping



Universal approximation



Nonconvex



# Problem: How to compute gradients?

---

$$s = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$

$$L_i = \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1)$$

$$R(W) = \sum_k W_k^2$$

$$L(W_1, W_2, b_1, b_2) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + \lambda R(W_1) + \lambda R(W_2)$$

If we can compute  $\frac{\delta L}{\delta W_1}, \frac{\delta L}{\delta W_2}, \frac{\delta L}{\delta b_1}, \frac{\delta L}{\delta b_2}$  then we can optimize with SGD

# (Bad) Idea: Derive $\nabla_W L$ on paper

---

$$s = f(x; W) = Wx$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_i &= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, s_j - s_{y_i} + 1) \\ &= \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, W_{j,:} x - W_{y_i,:} x + 1) \\ L &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + \lambda \sum_k W_k^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, W_{j,:} x - W_{y_i,:} x + 1) + \lambda \sum_k W_k^2 \end{aligned}$$

**Problem:** Very tedious with lots of matrix calculus

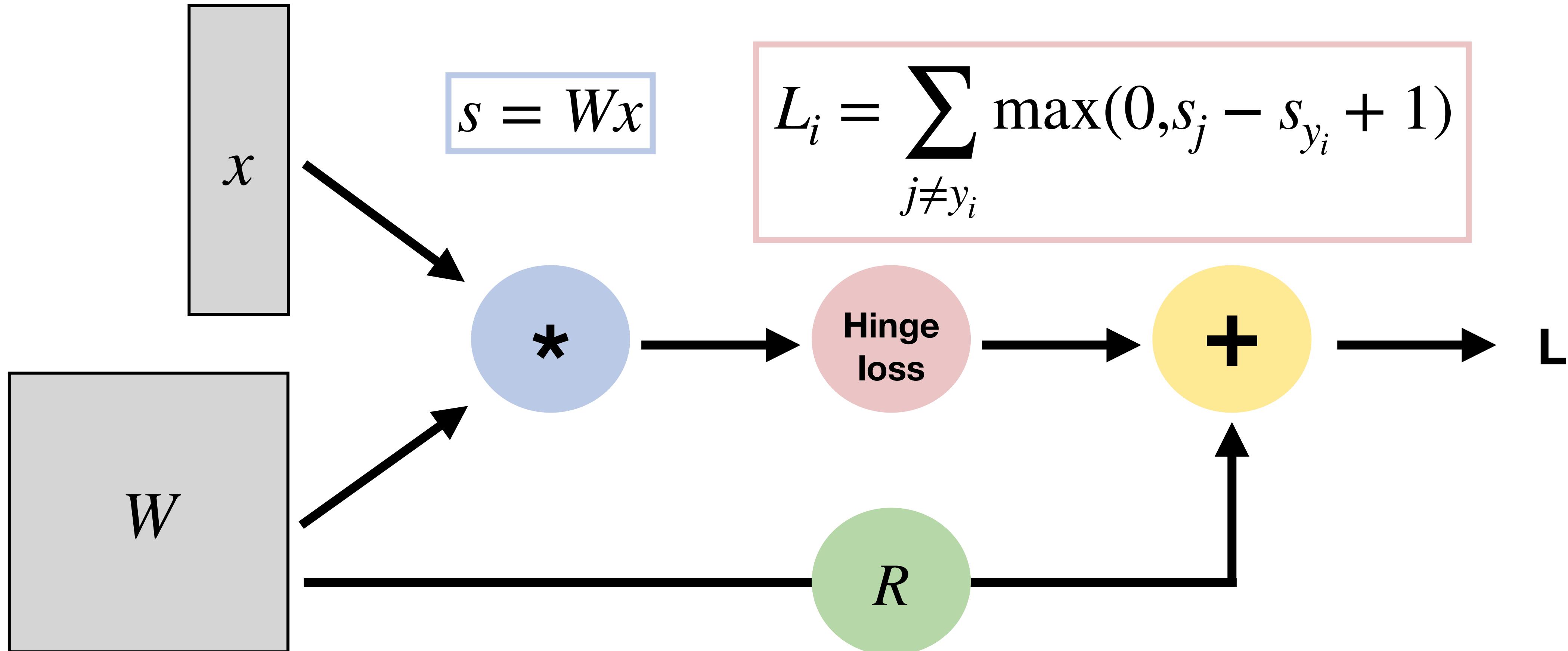
**Problem:** What if we want to change the loss? E.g. use softmax instead of SVM? Need to re-derive from scratch. Not modular!

**Problem:** Not feasible for very complex models!

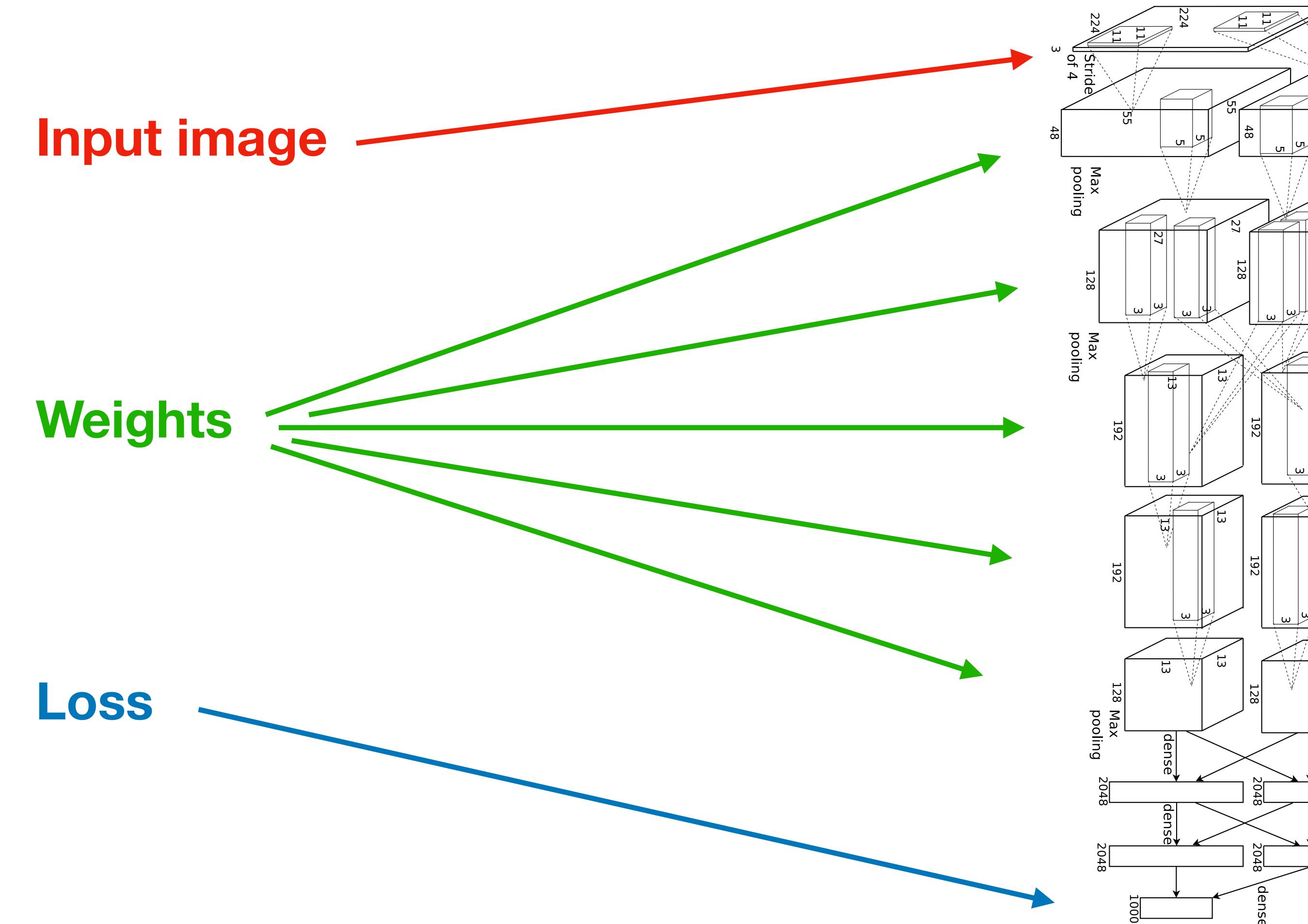
$$\nabla_W L = \nabla_W \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j \neq y_i} \max(0, W_{j,:} x - W_{y_i,:} x + 1) + \lambda \sum_k W_k^2 \right)$$



# Better Idea: Computational Graphs

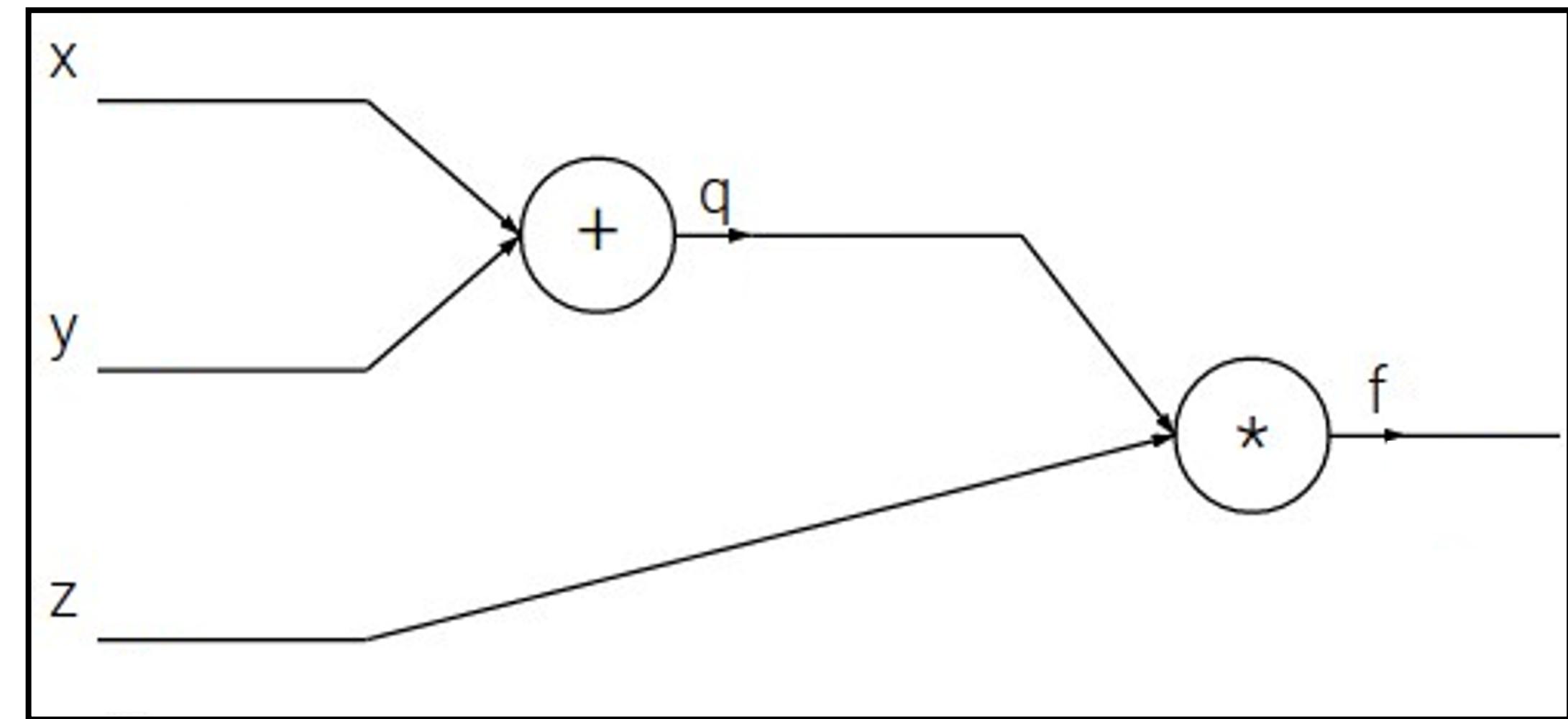


# Deep Network (AlexNet)



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

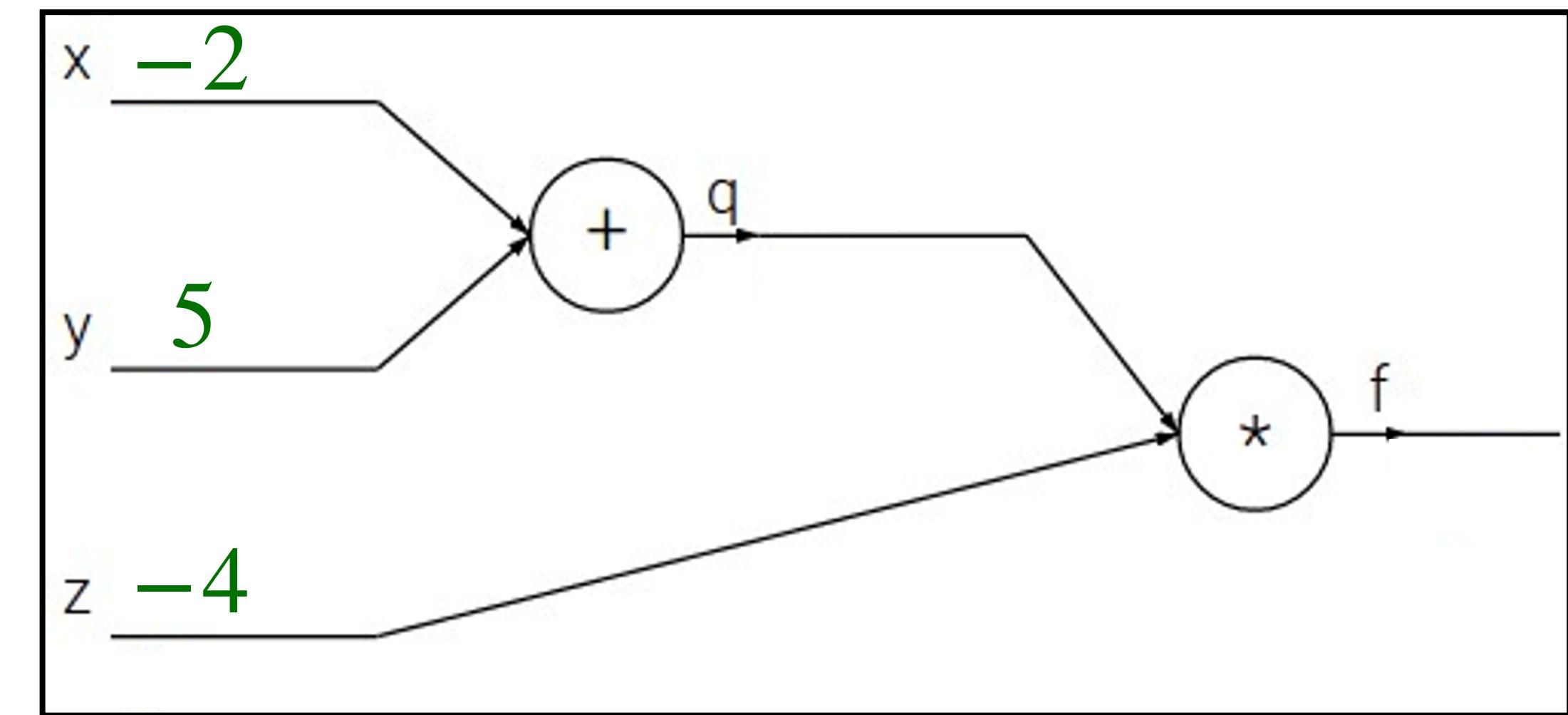
$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$



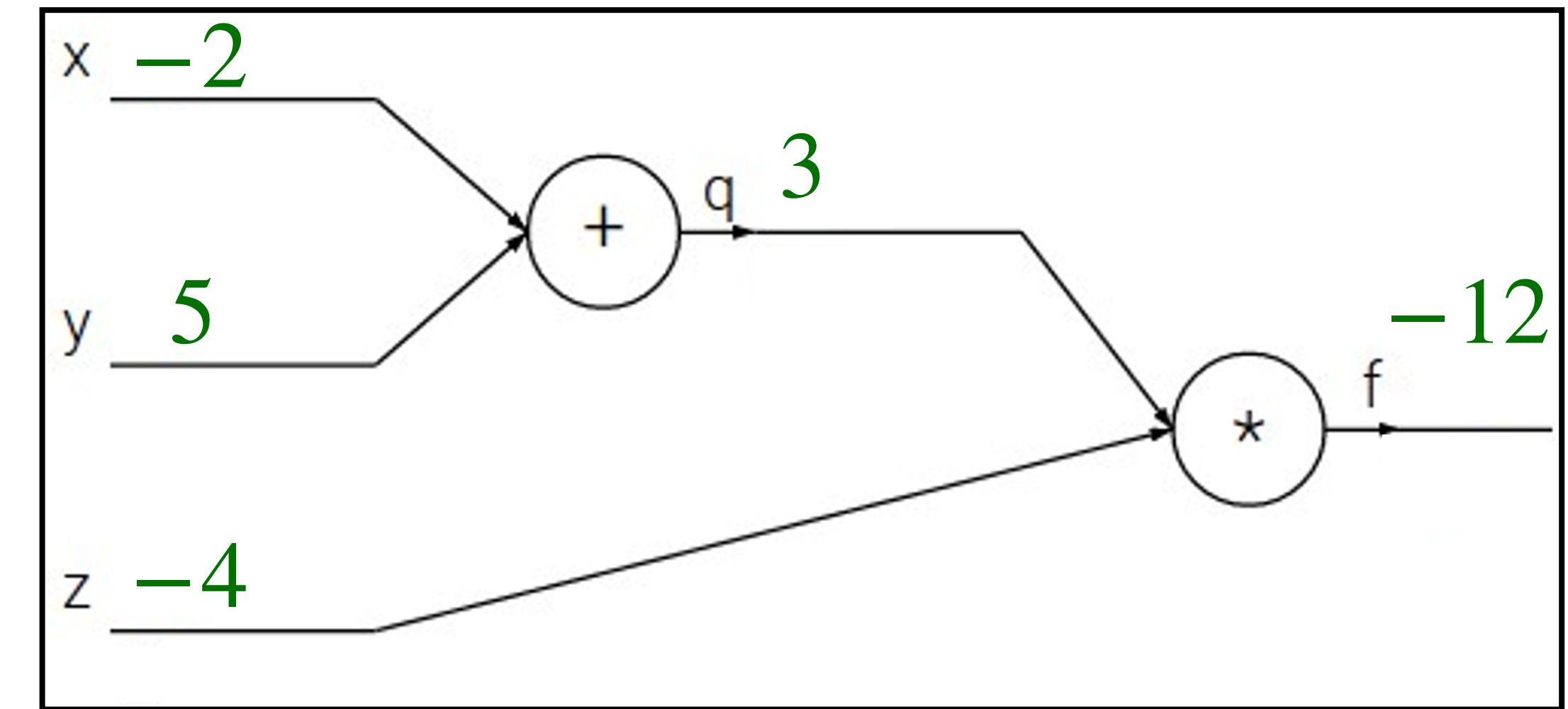
# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

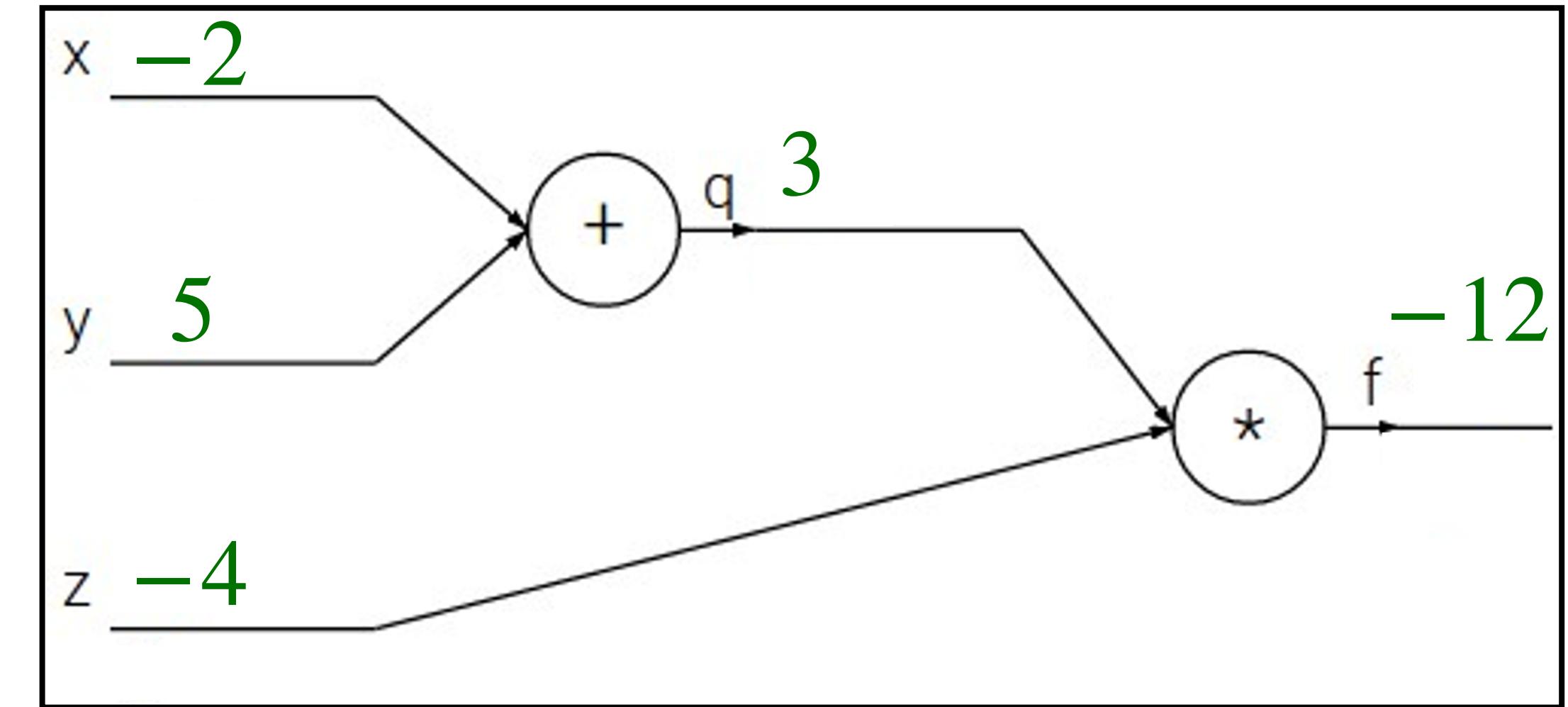
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

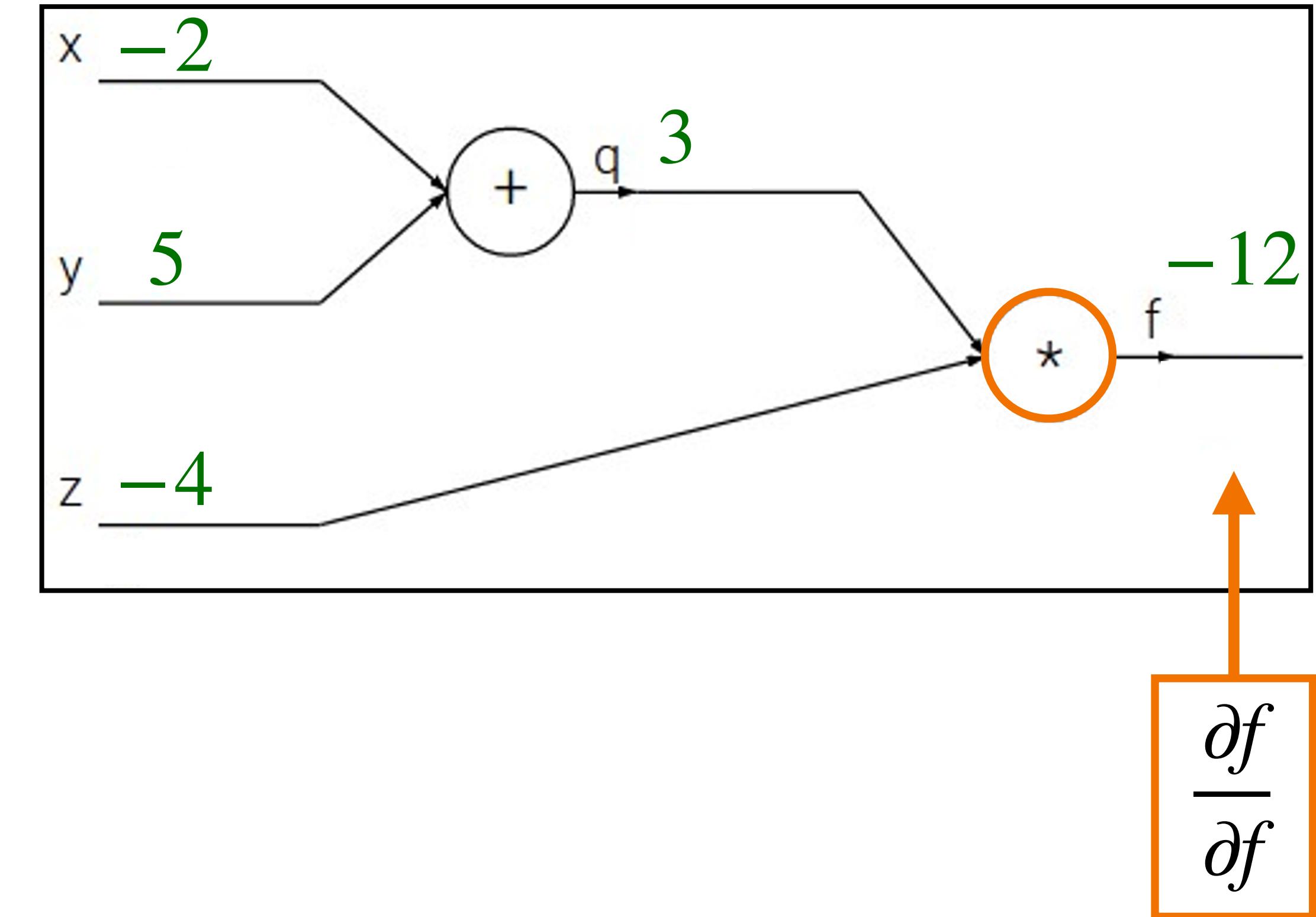
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

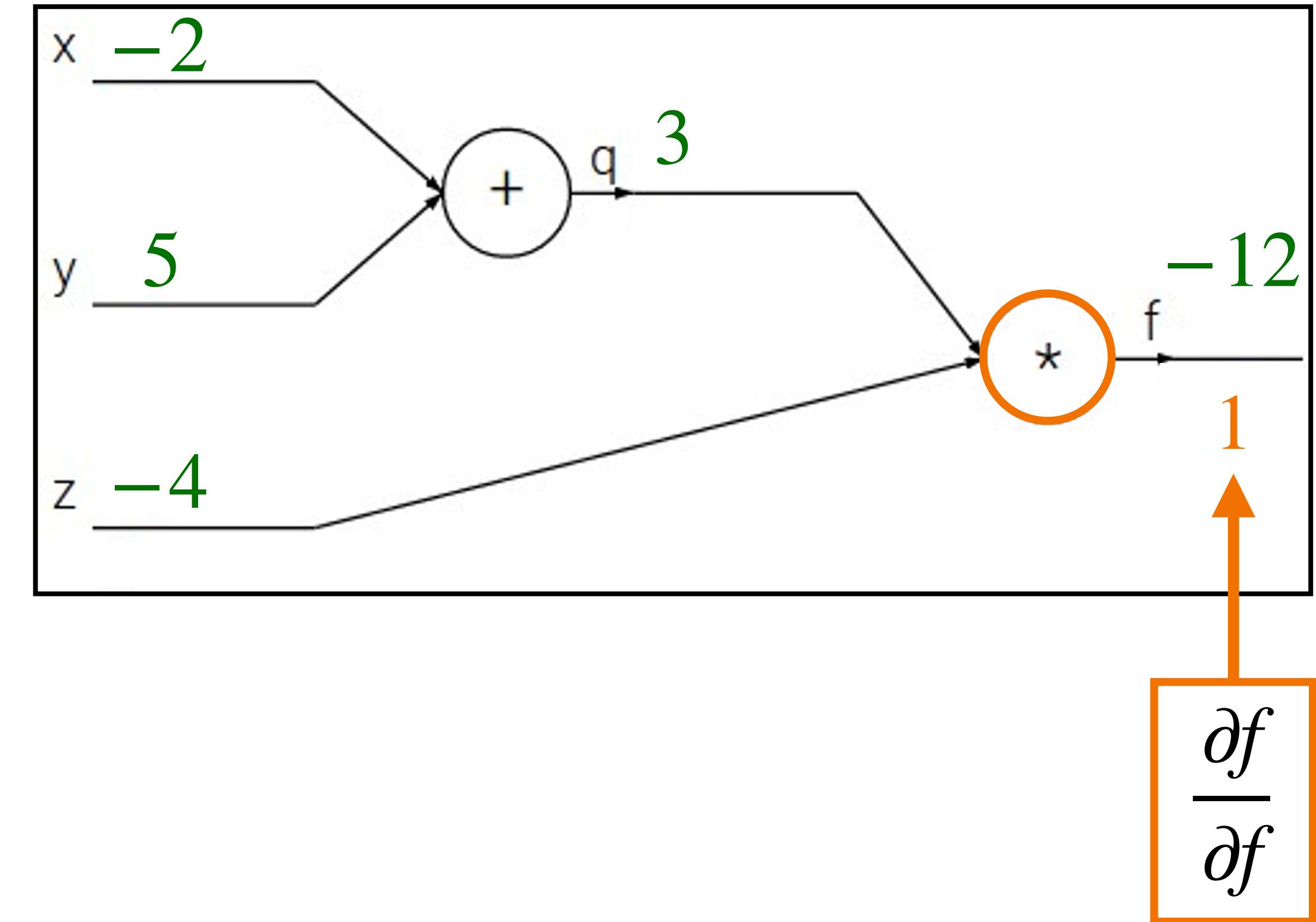
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

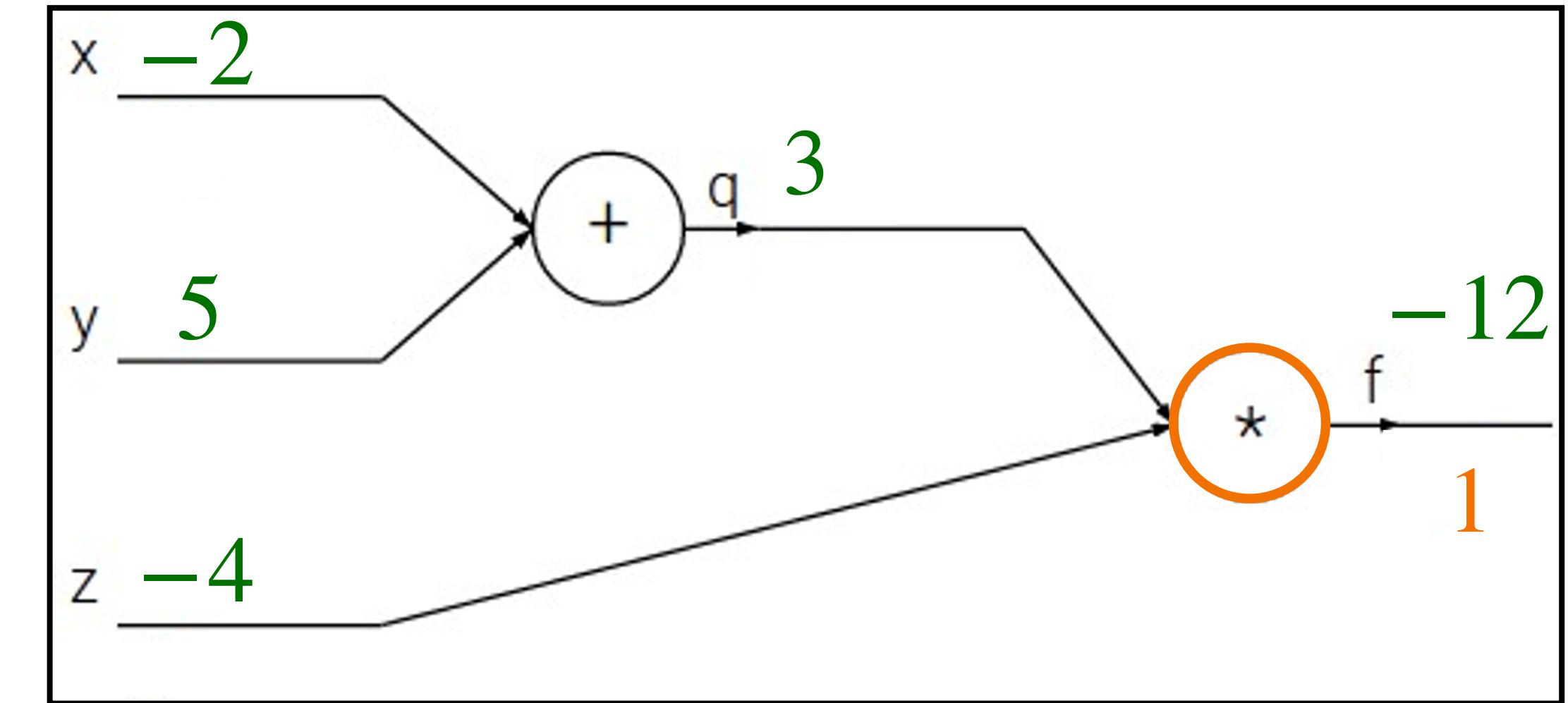
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

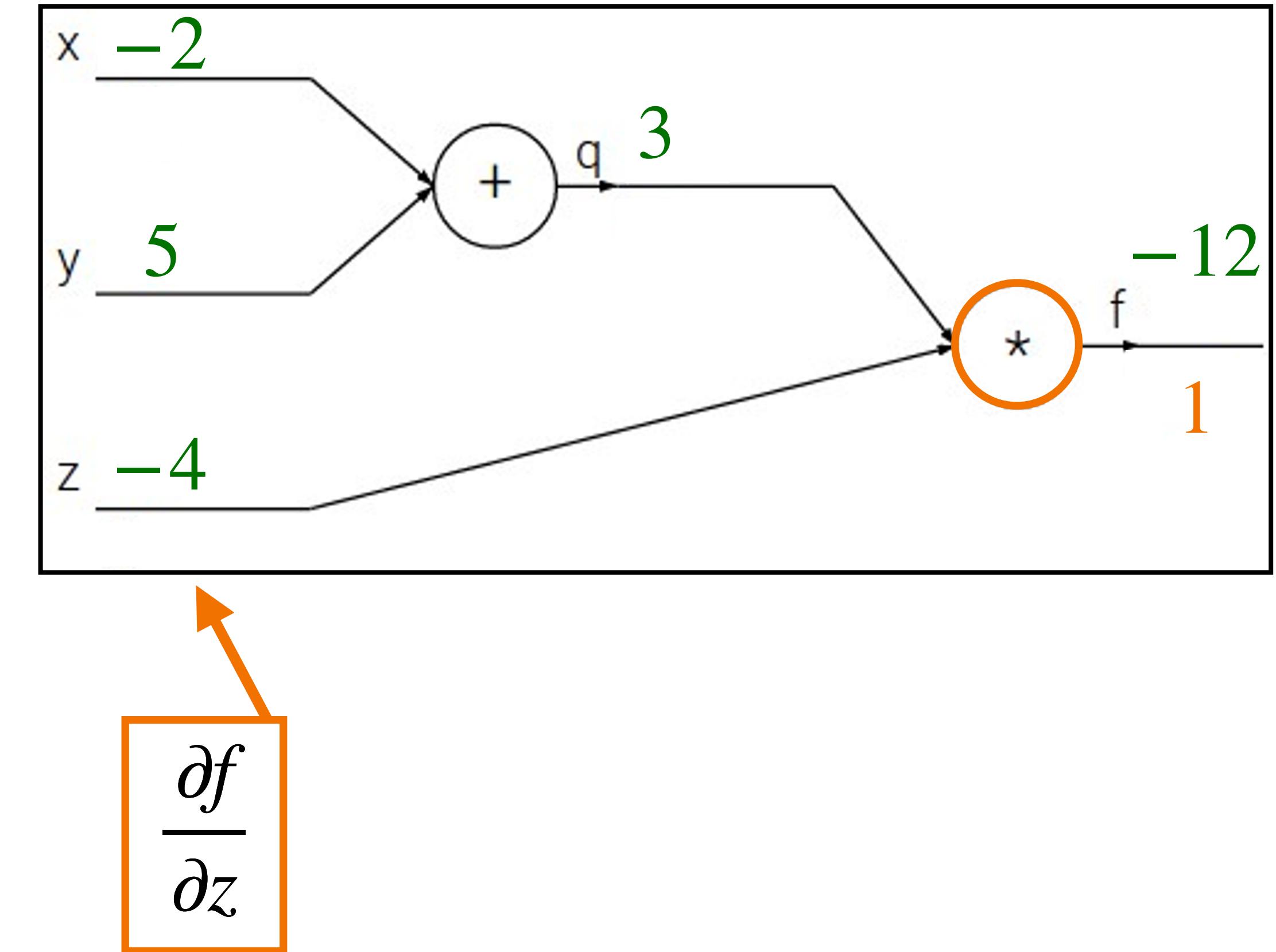
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

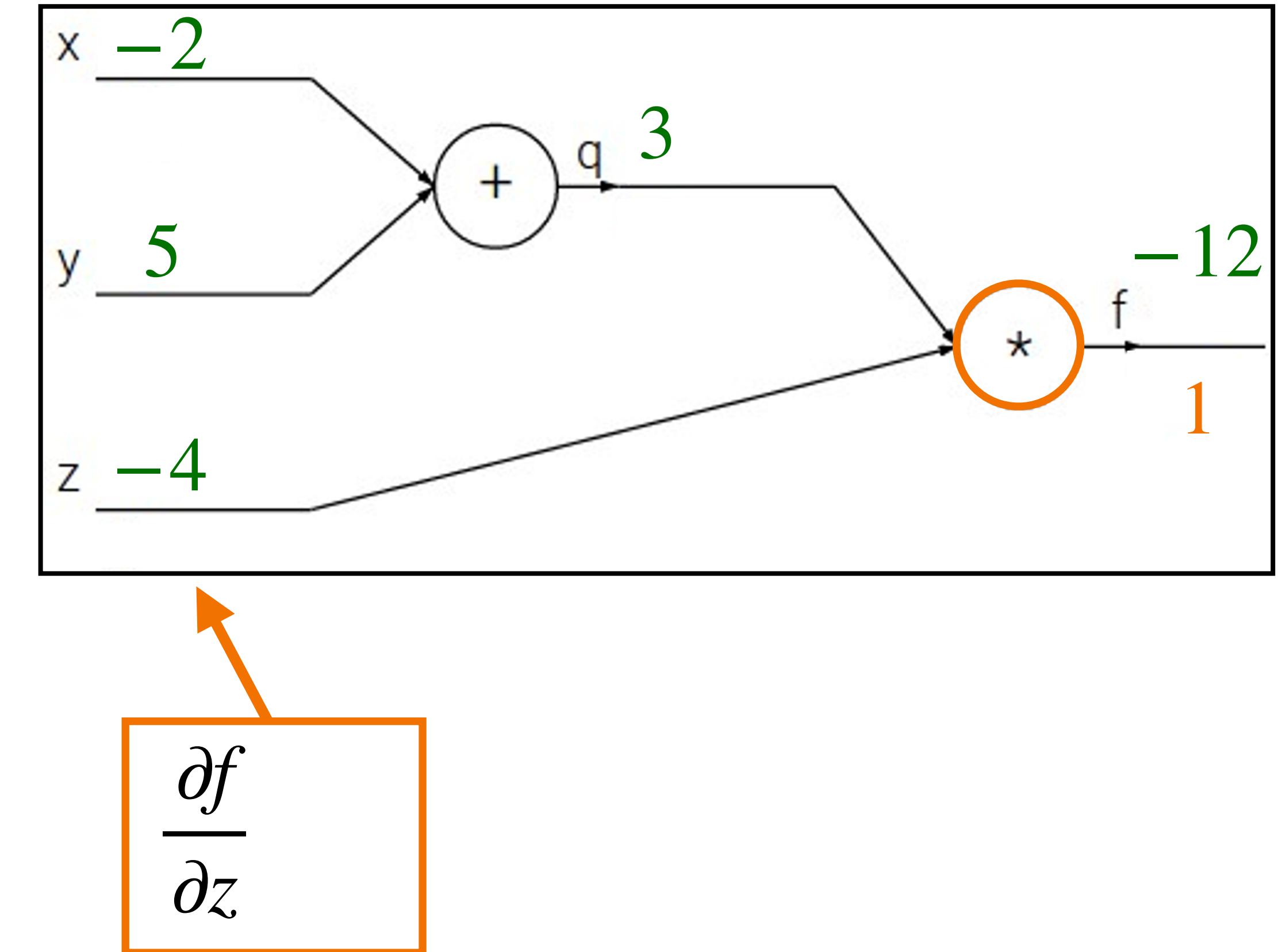
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

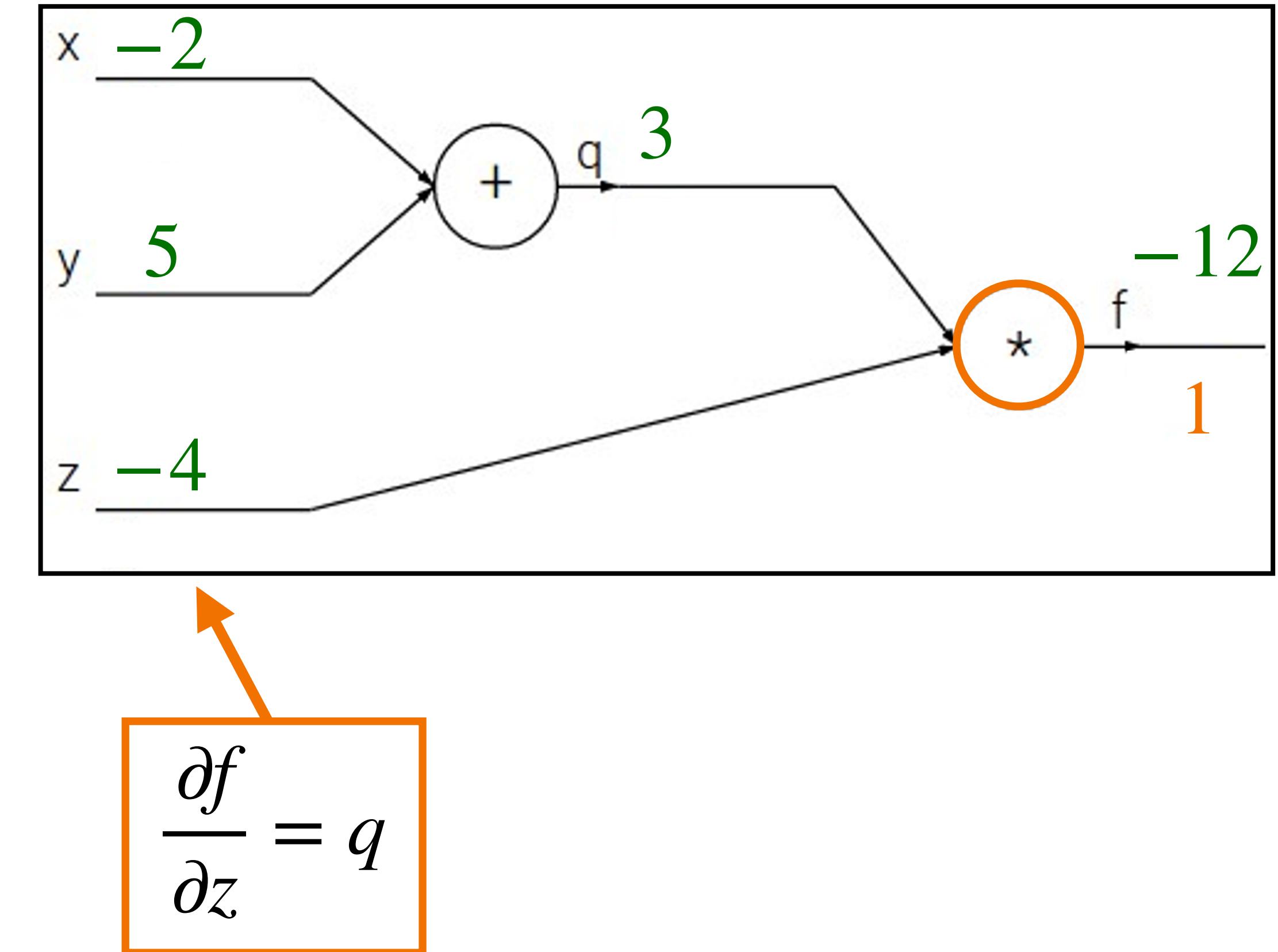
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = q$$

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

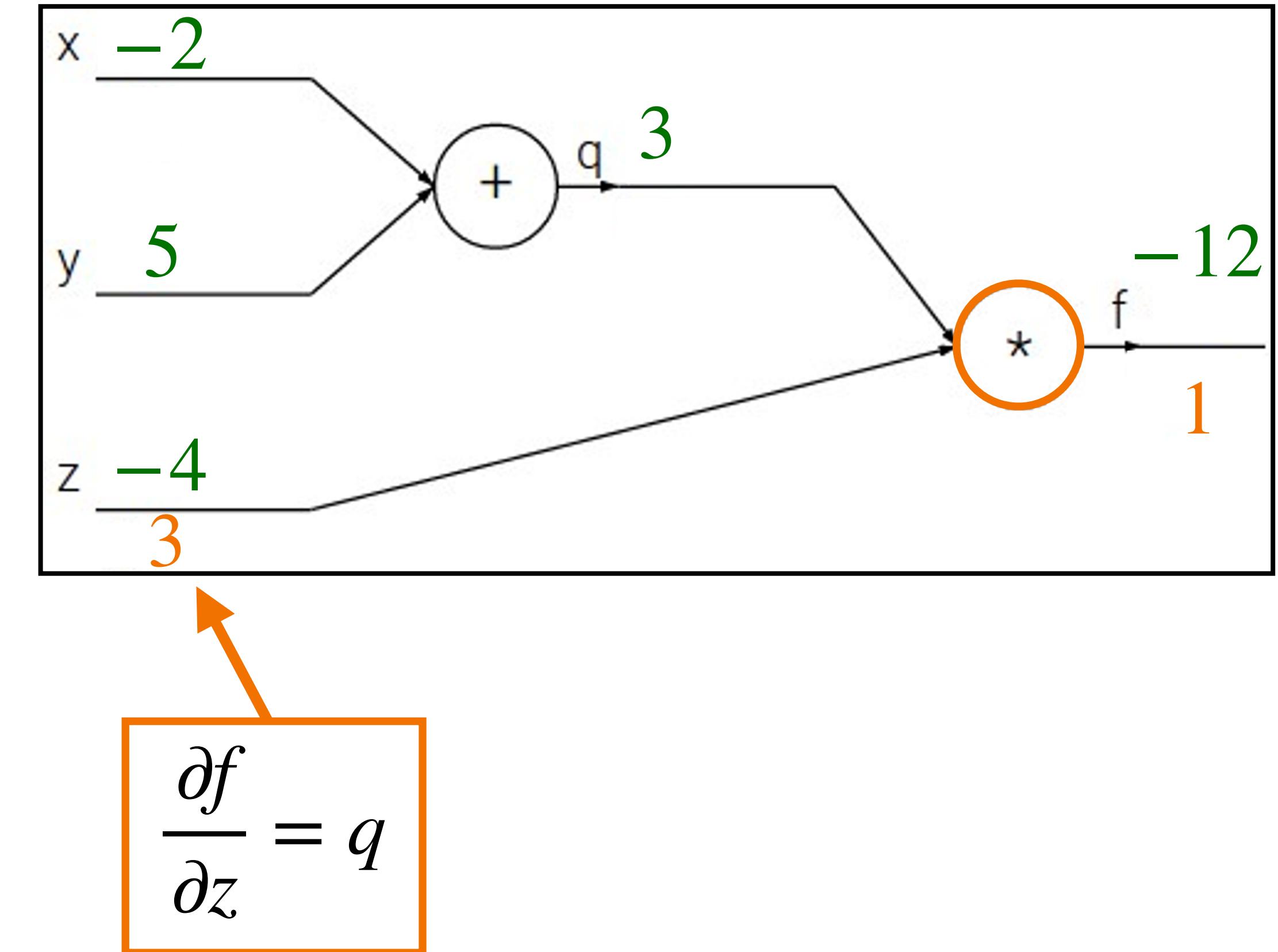
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = q$$

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

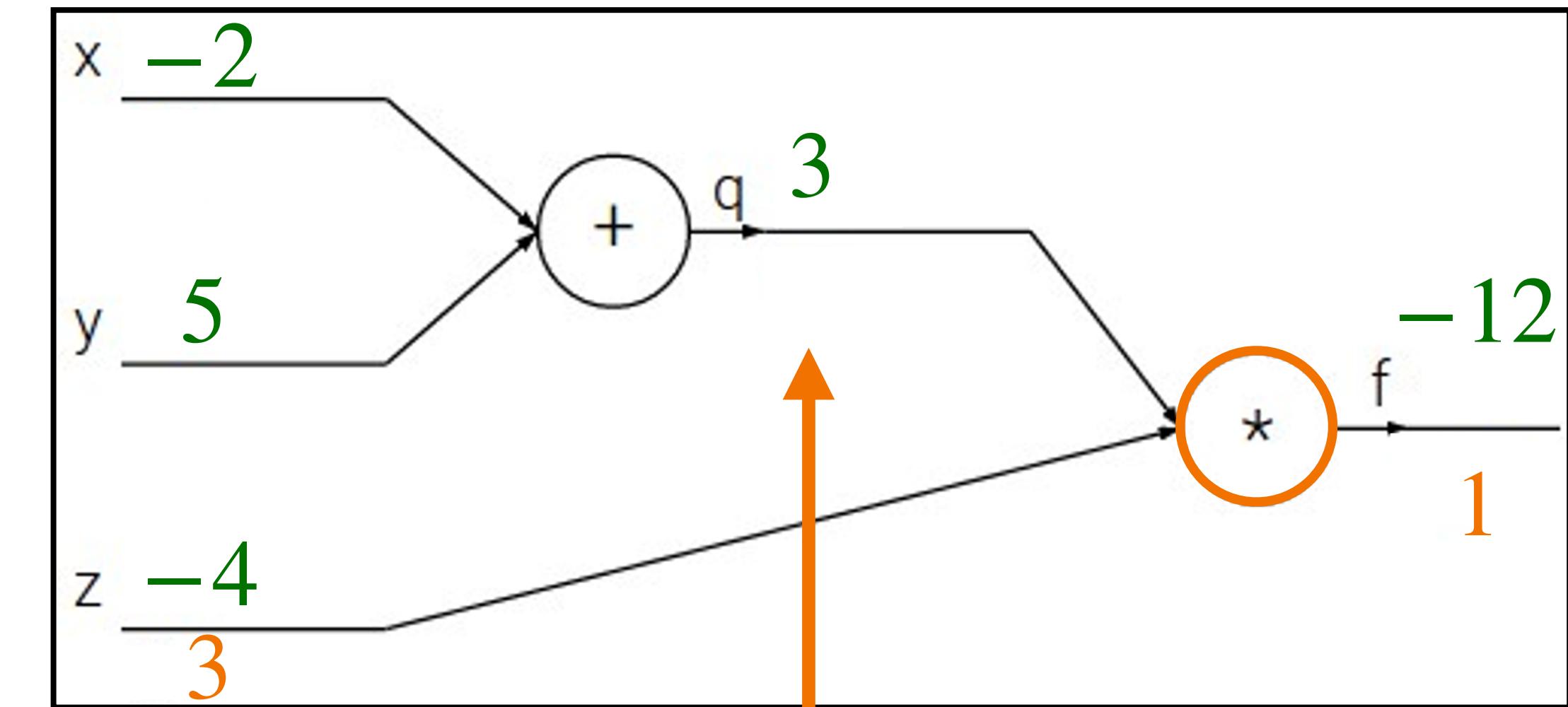
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

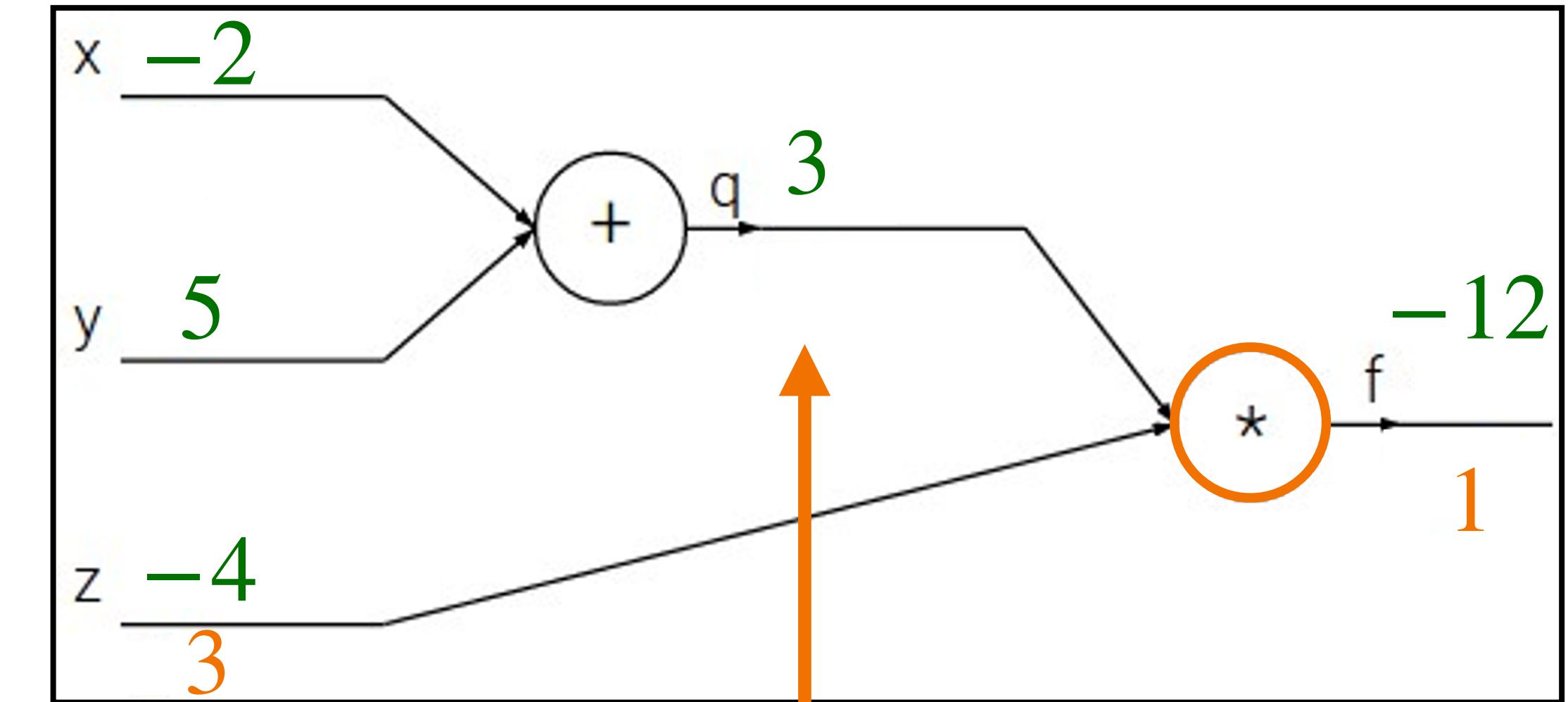
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

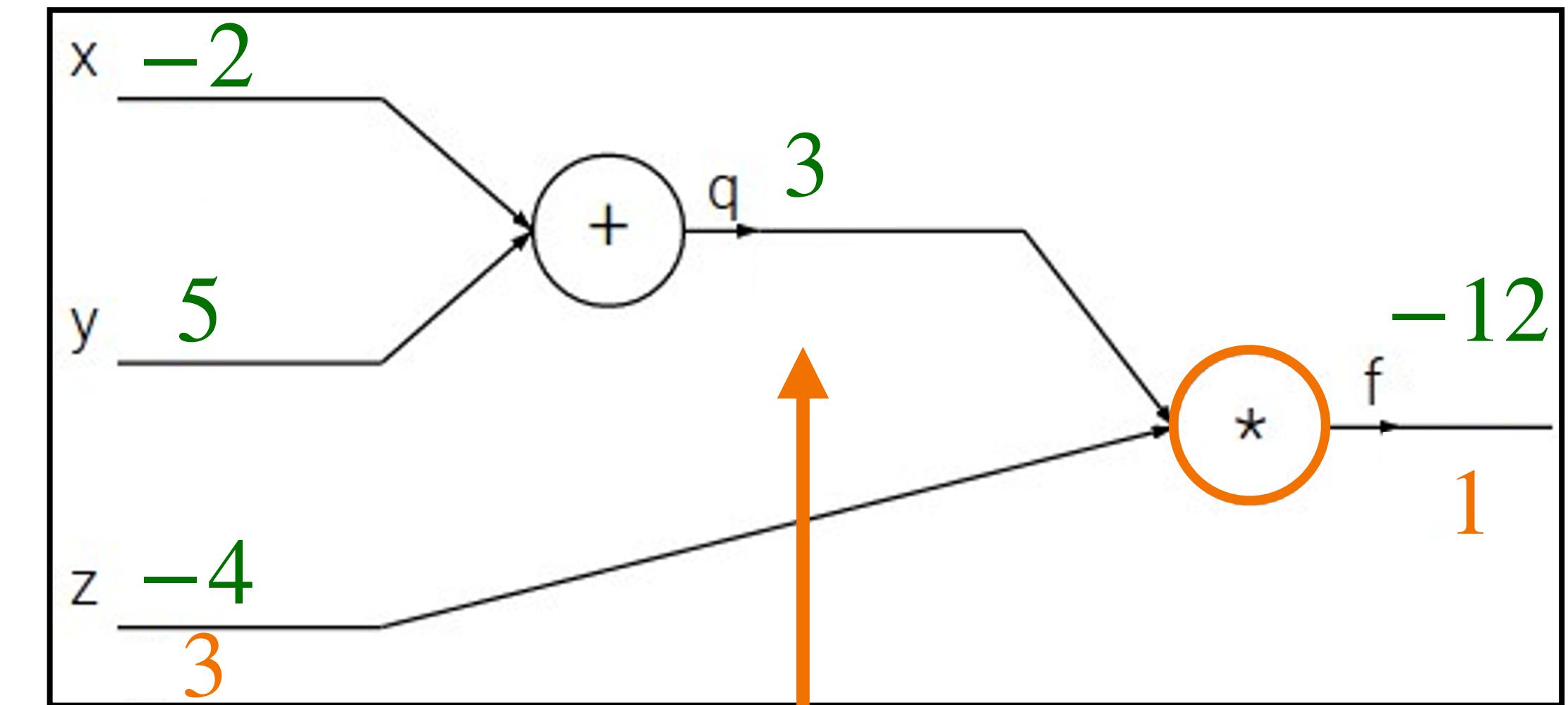
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial q} = z$$

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

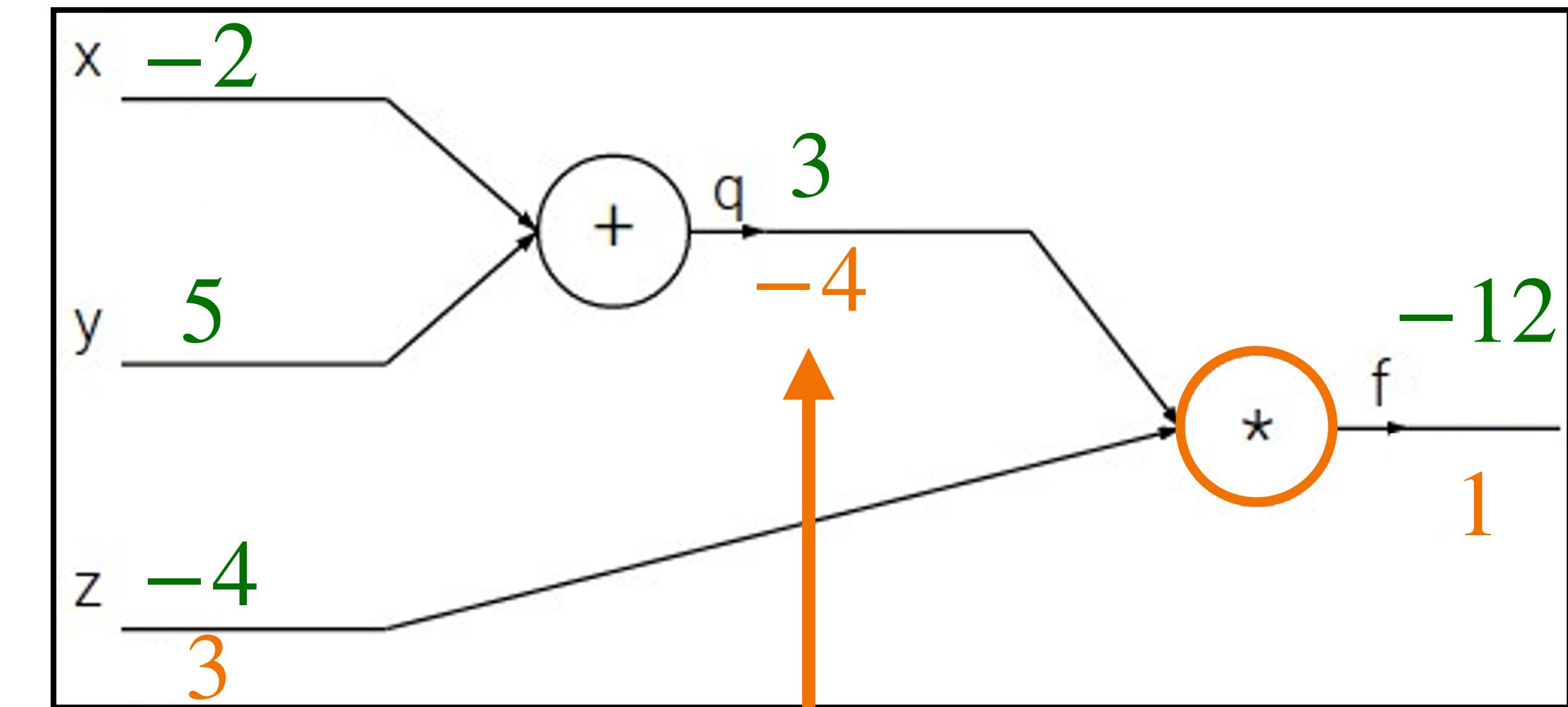
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial q} = z$$

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

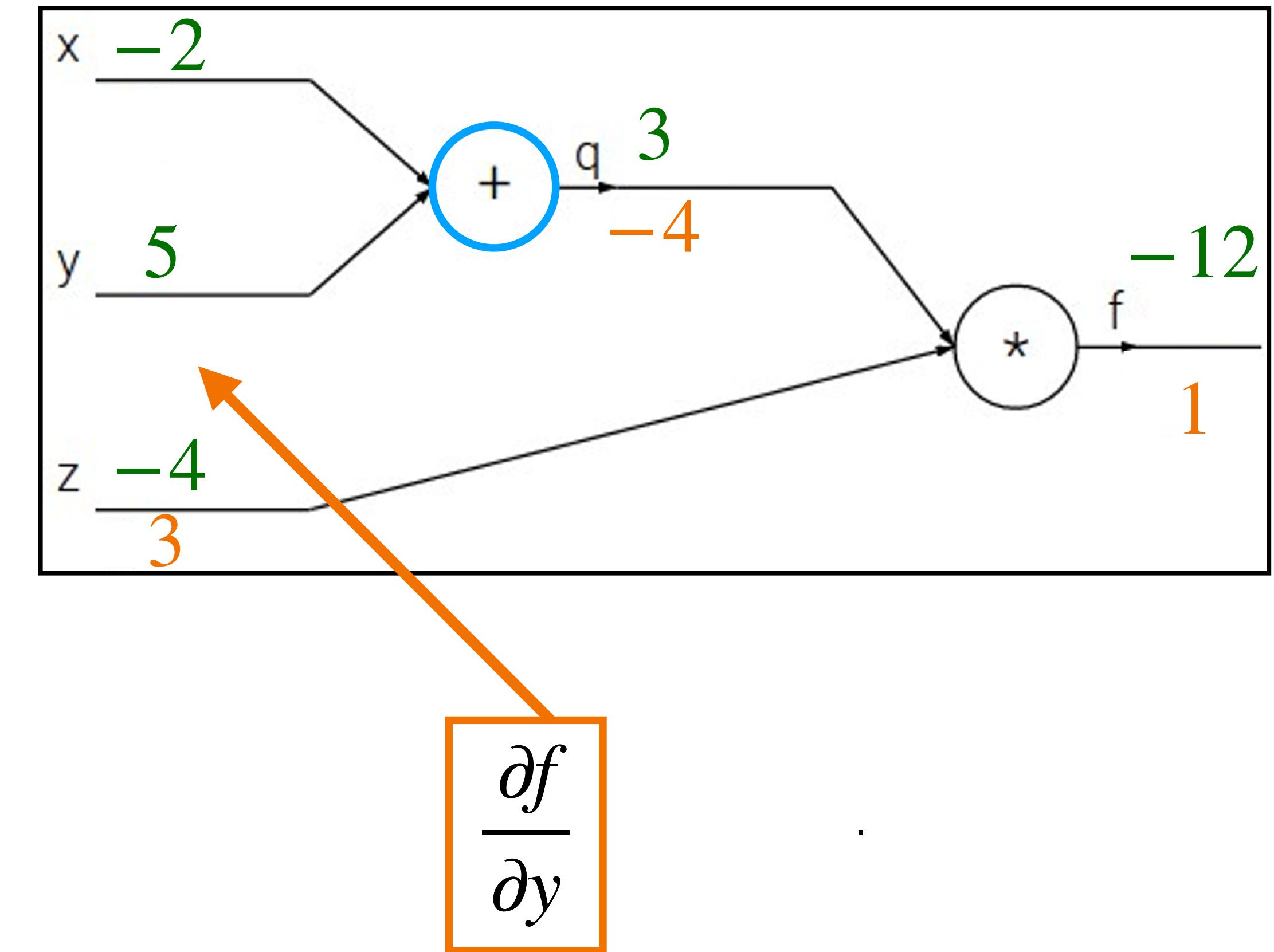
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

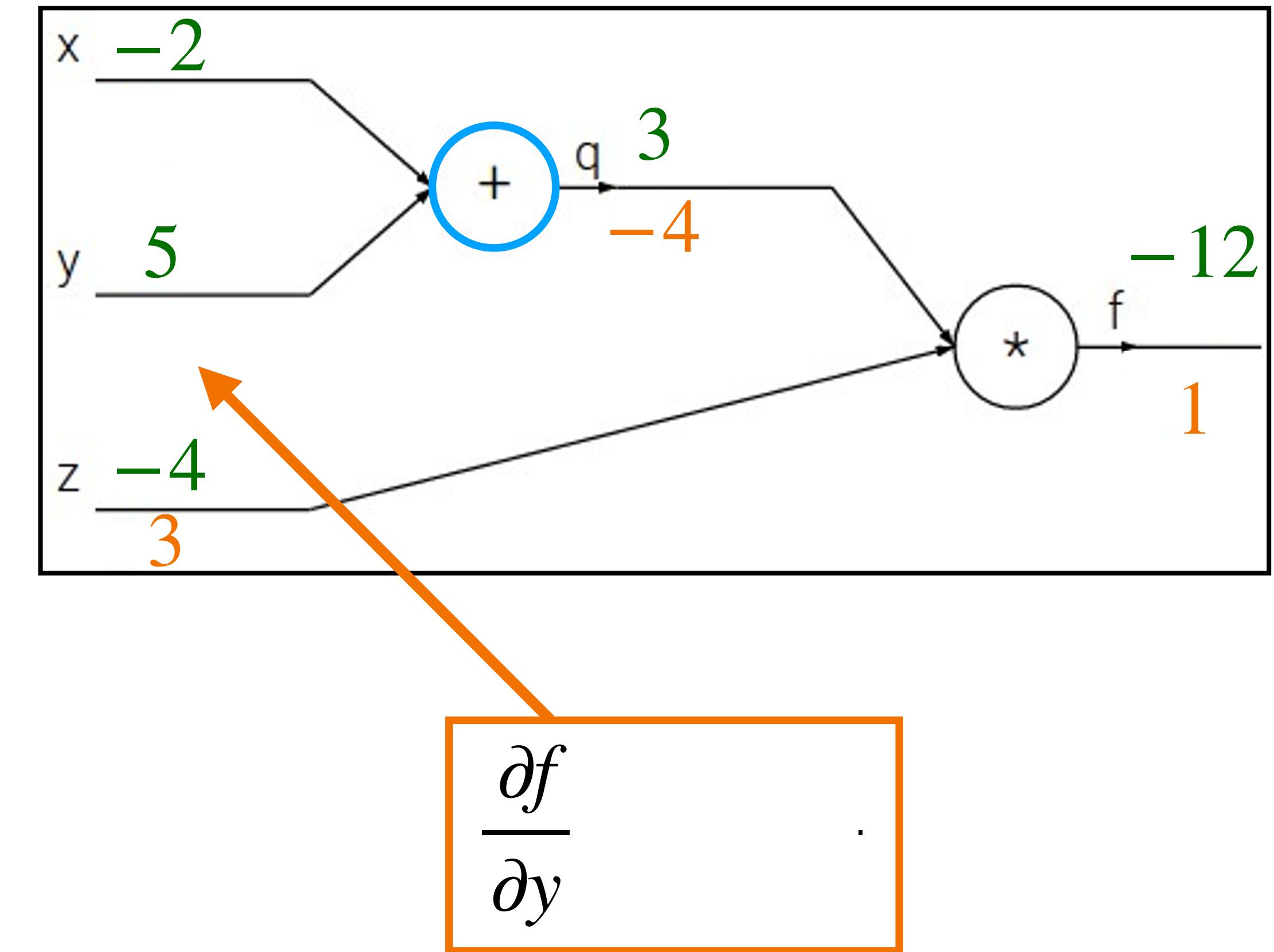
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

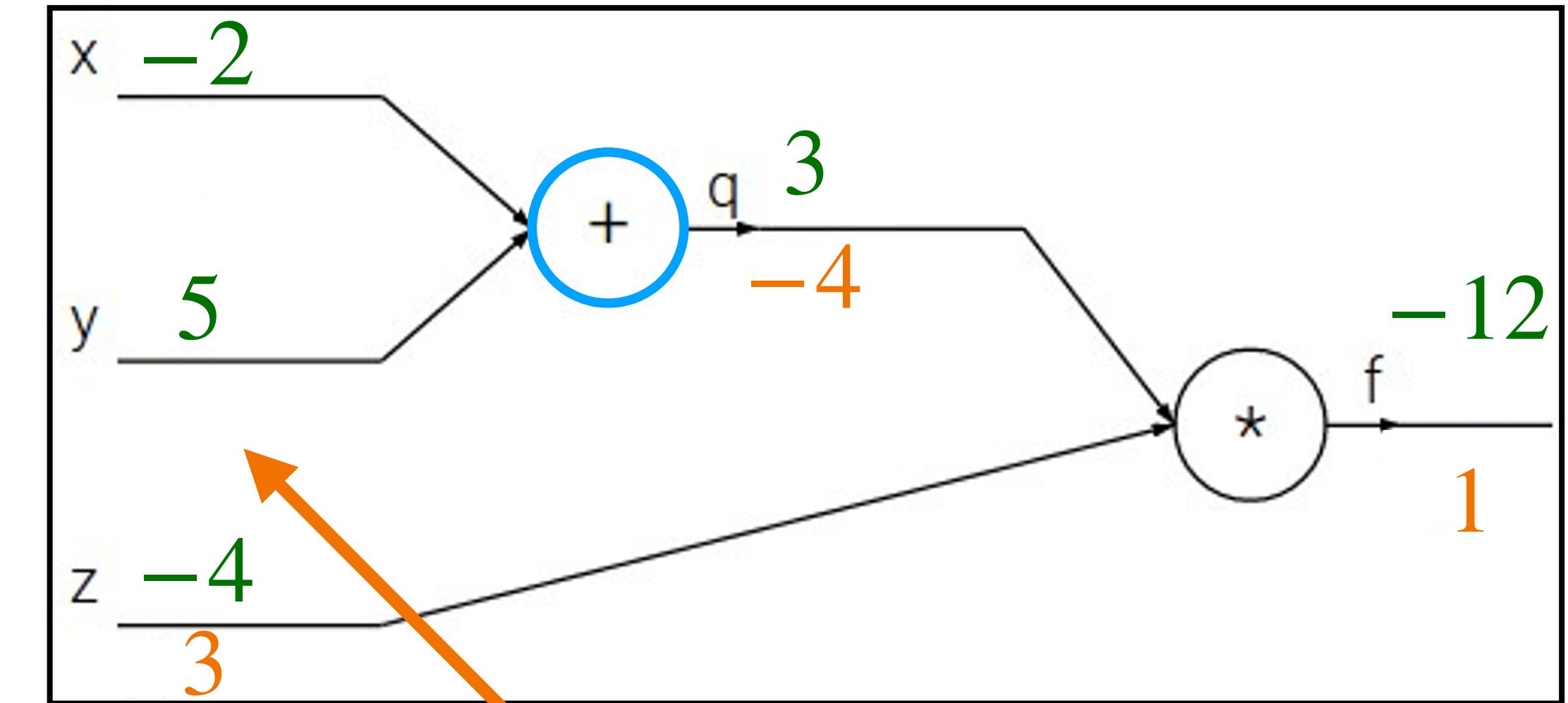
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

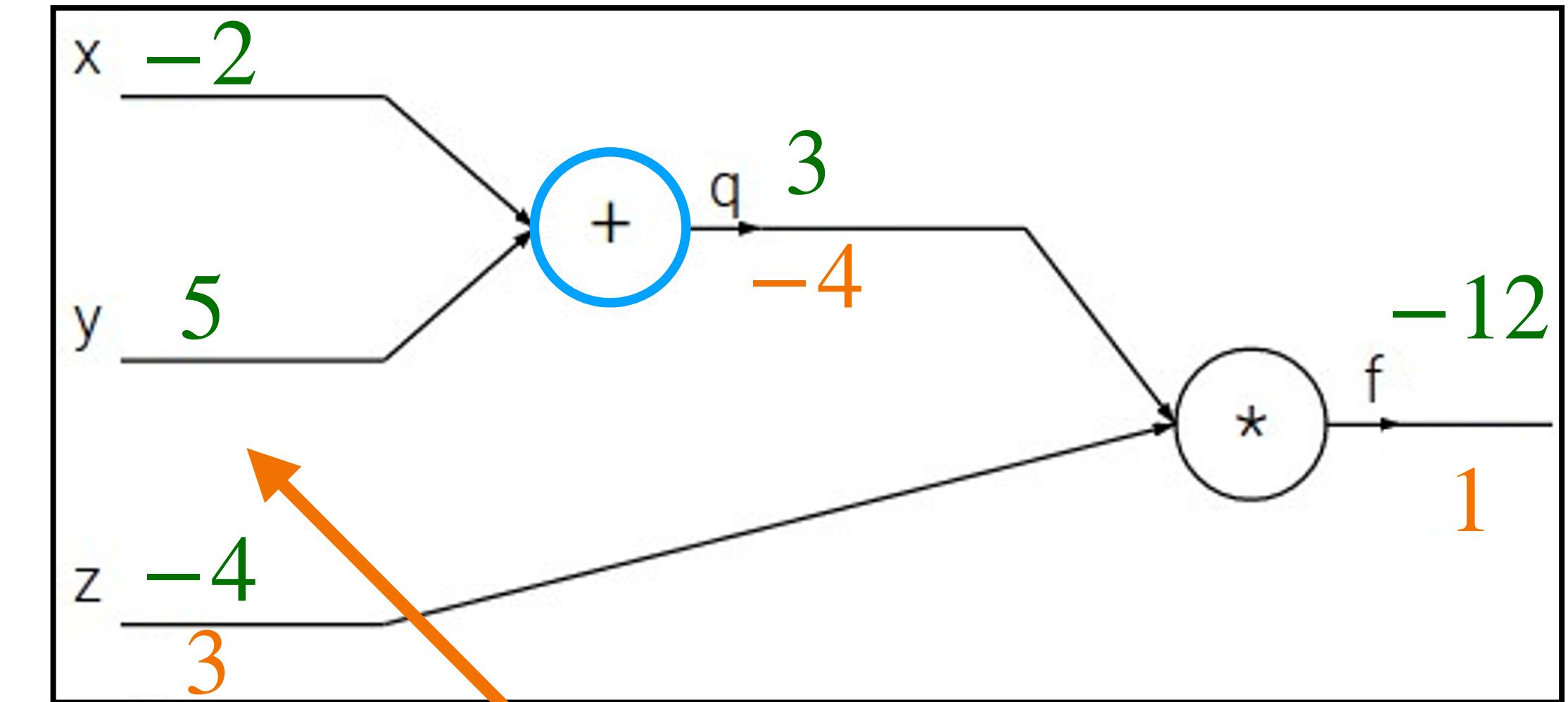
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

Downstream  
Gradient

Local  
Gradient

Upstream  
Gradient

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

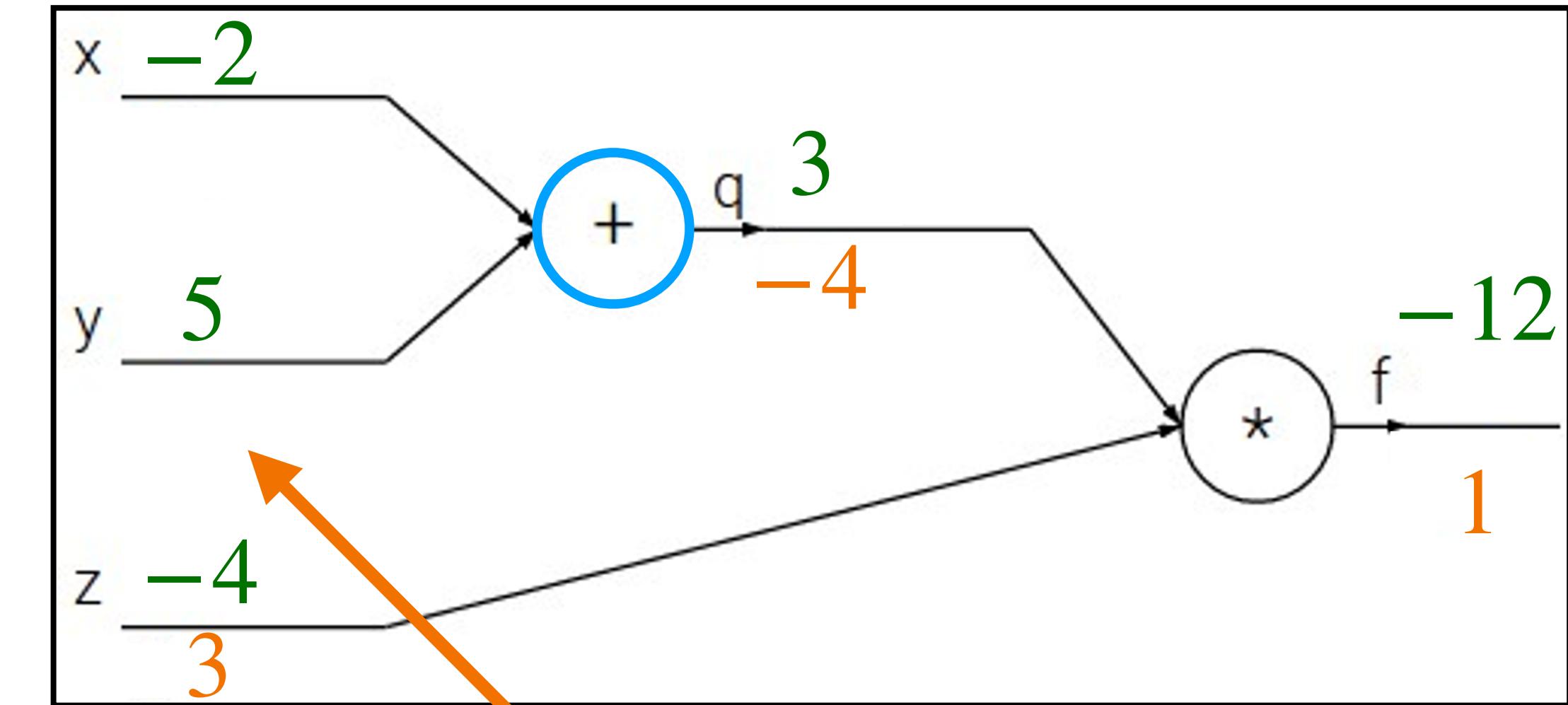
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial y} = 1$$

Downstream  
Gradient

Local  
Gradient

Upstream  
Gradient

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

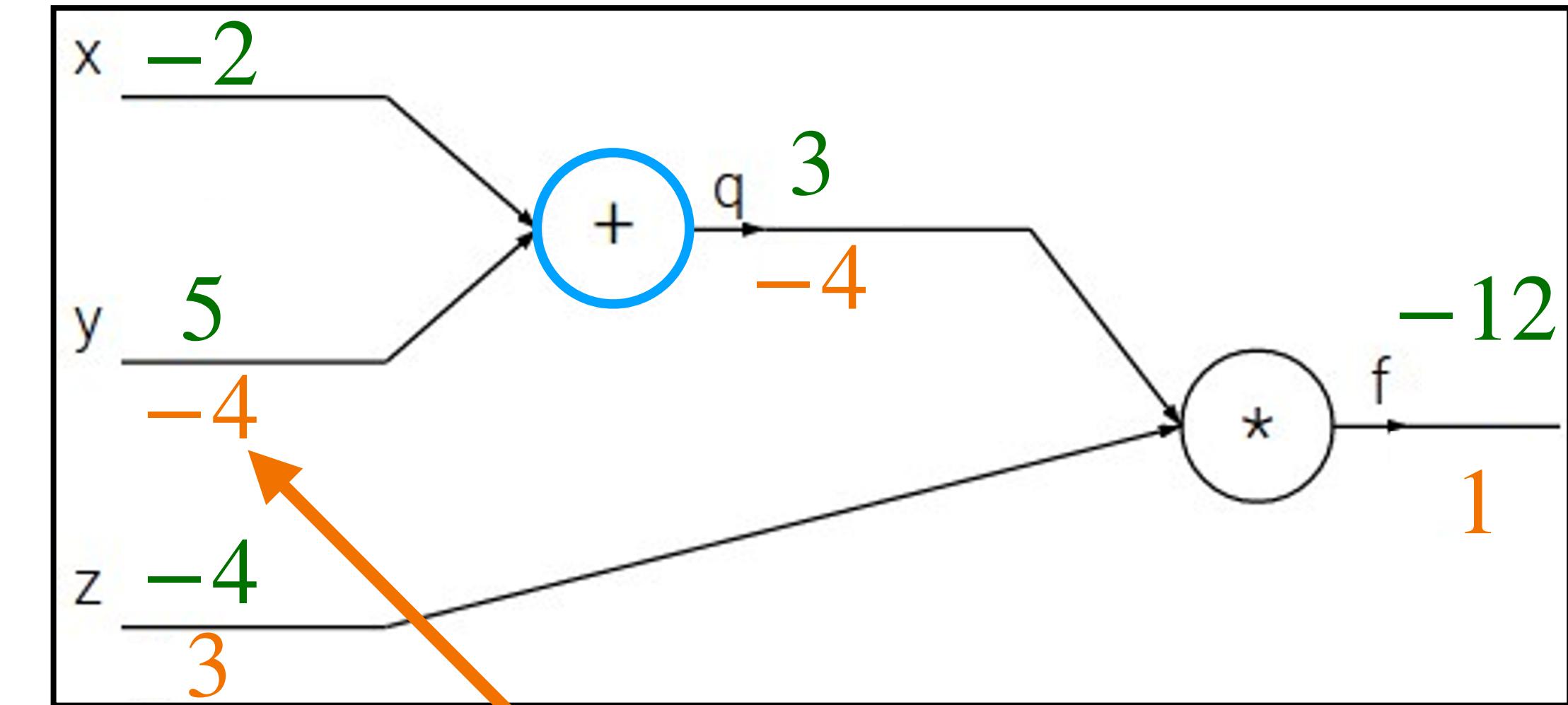
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial y} = 1$$

Downstream  
Gradient

Local  
Gradient

Upstream  
Gradient

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

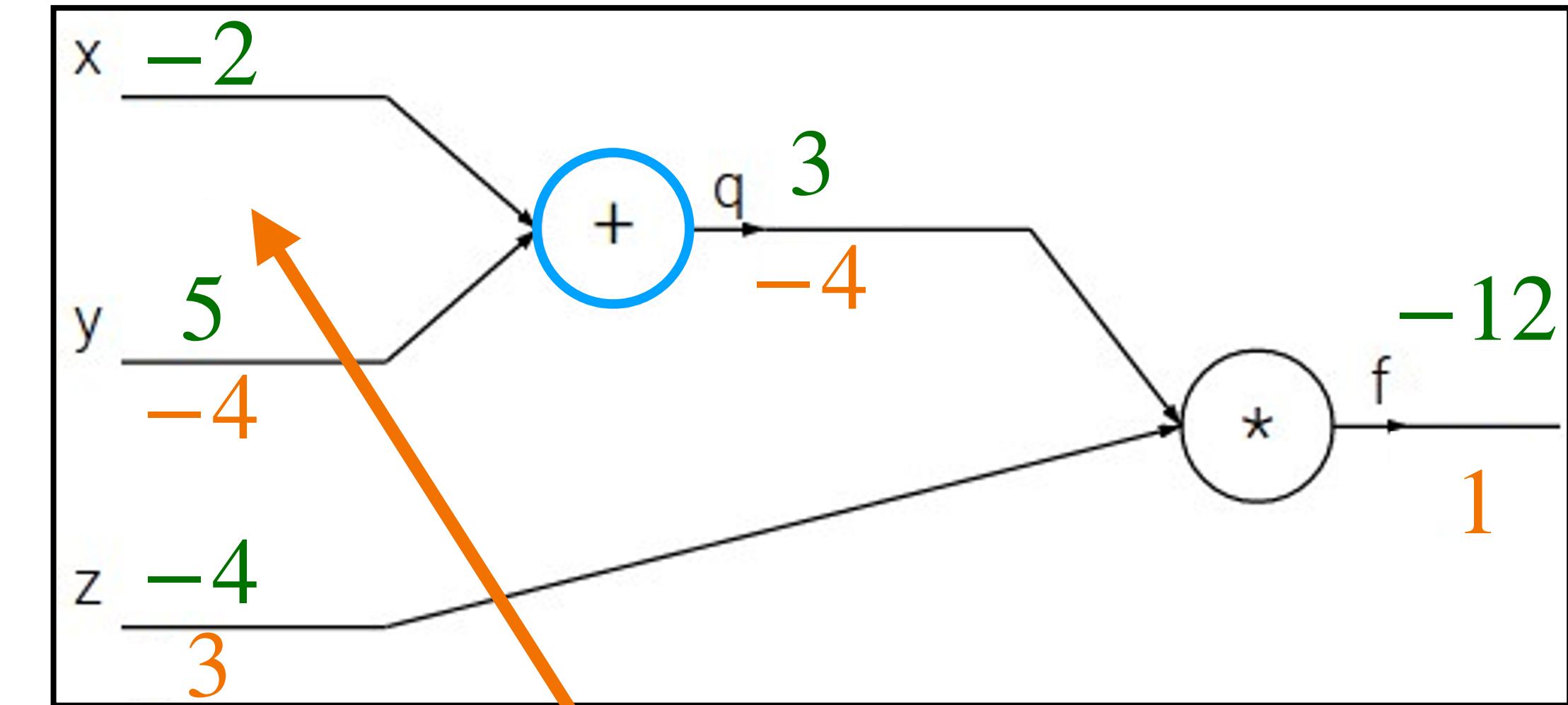
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} = 1$$

Downstream  
Gradient

Local  
Gradient

Upstream  
Gradient

# Backpropagation: Simple Example

$$f(x, y, z) = (x + y) \cdot z$$

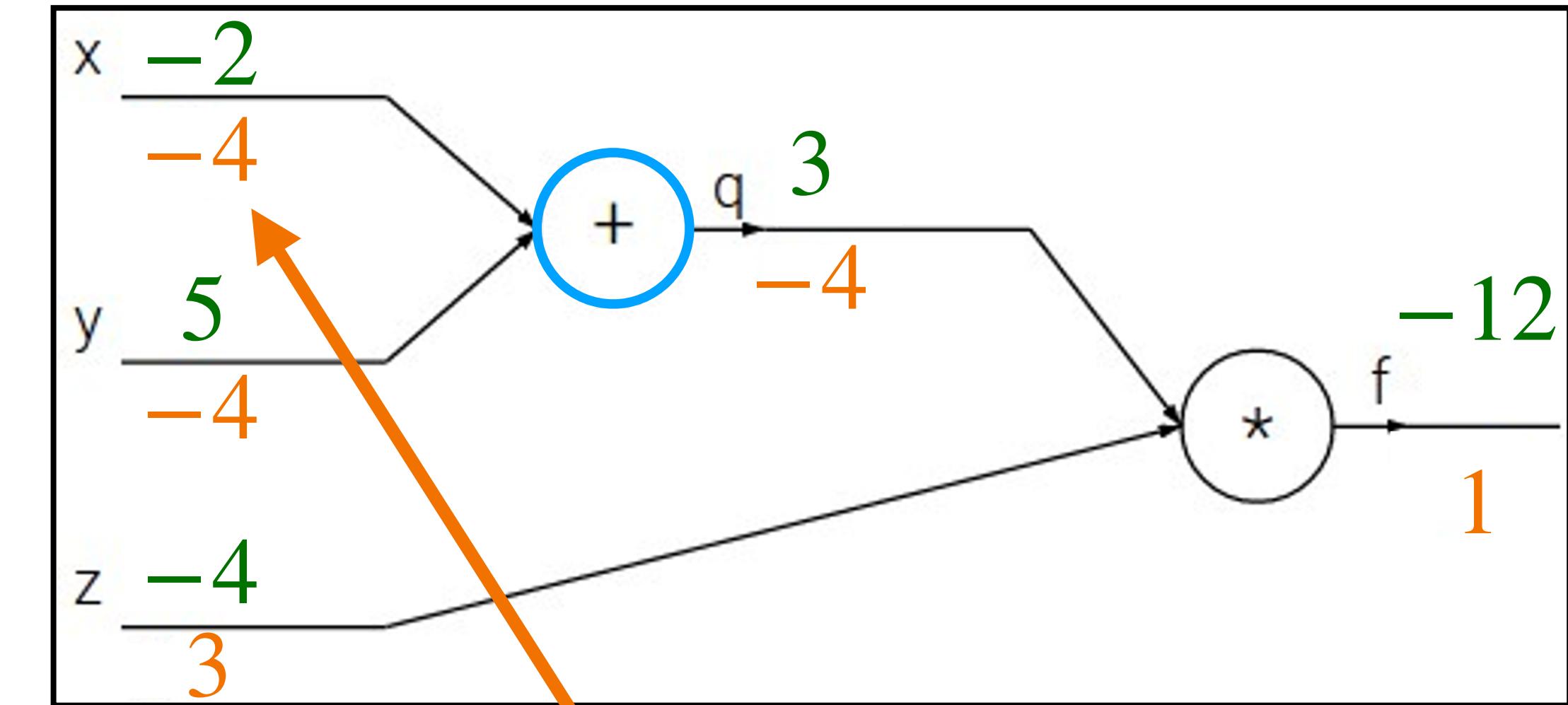
e.g.  $x = -2, y = 5, z = -4$

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

$$q = x + y \quad f = q \cdot z$$

**2. Backward pass:** Compute derivatives

Want:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$



$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q}$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} = 1$$

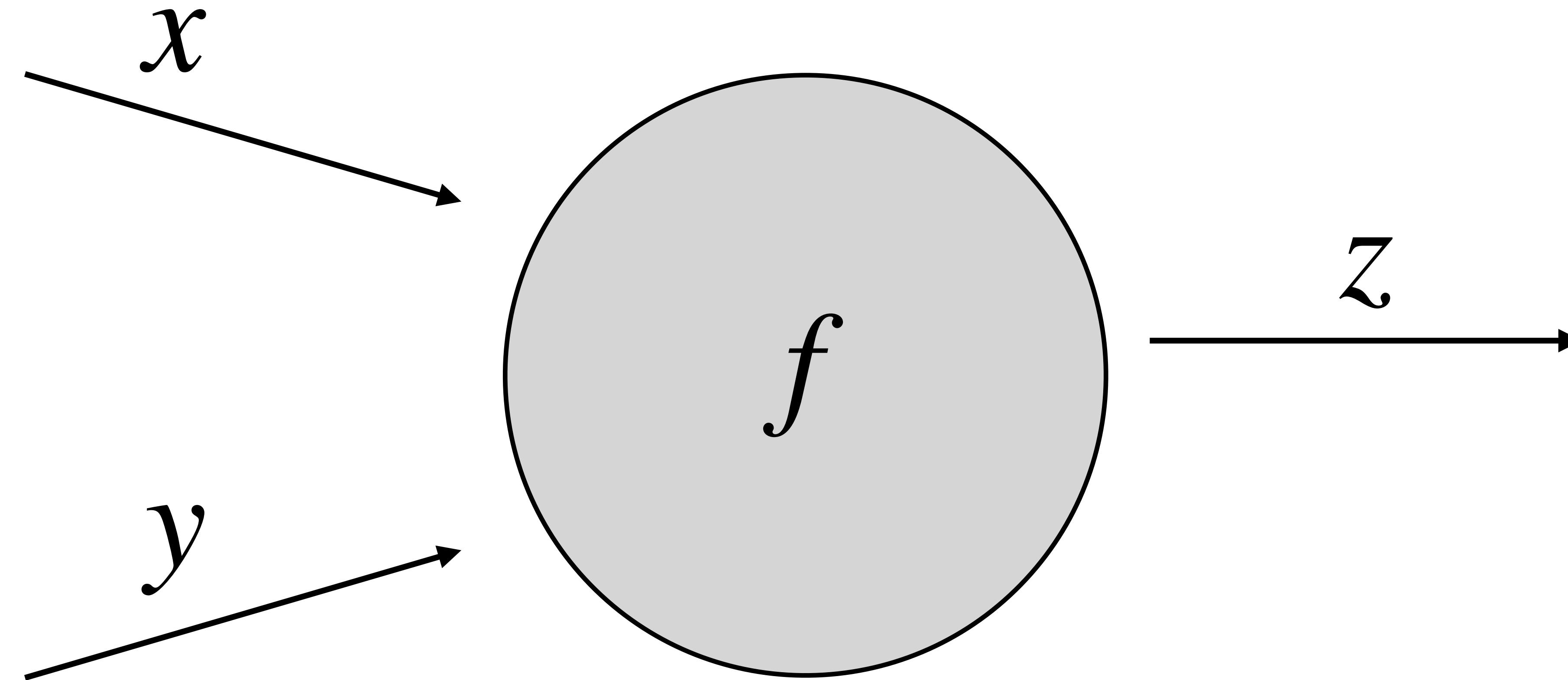
Downstream  
Gradient

Local  
Gradient

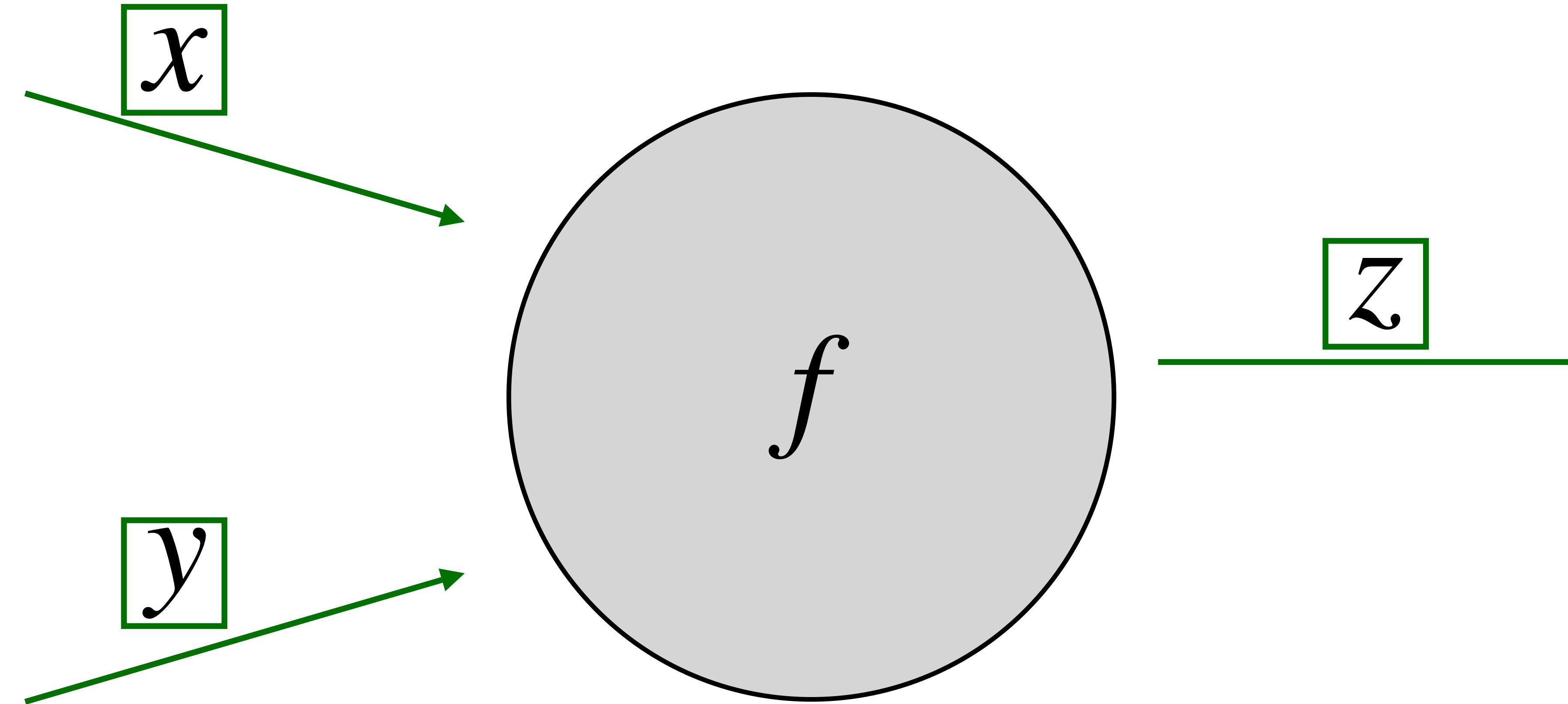
Upstream  
Gradient

# Local Properties of Backpropagation

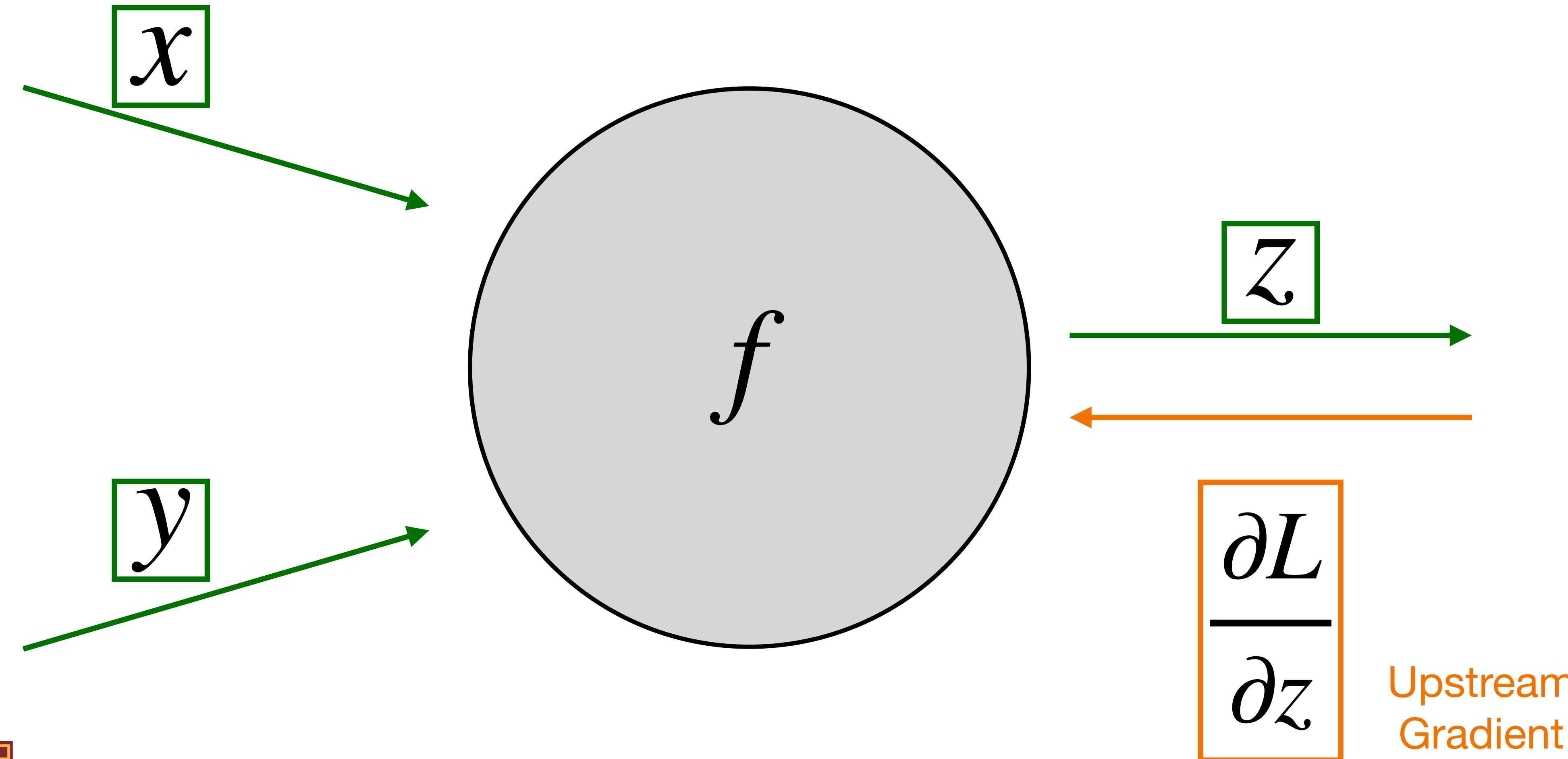
---



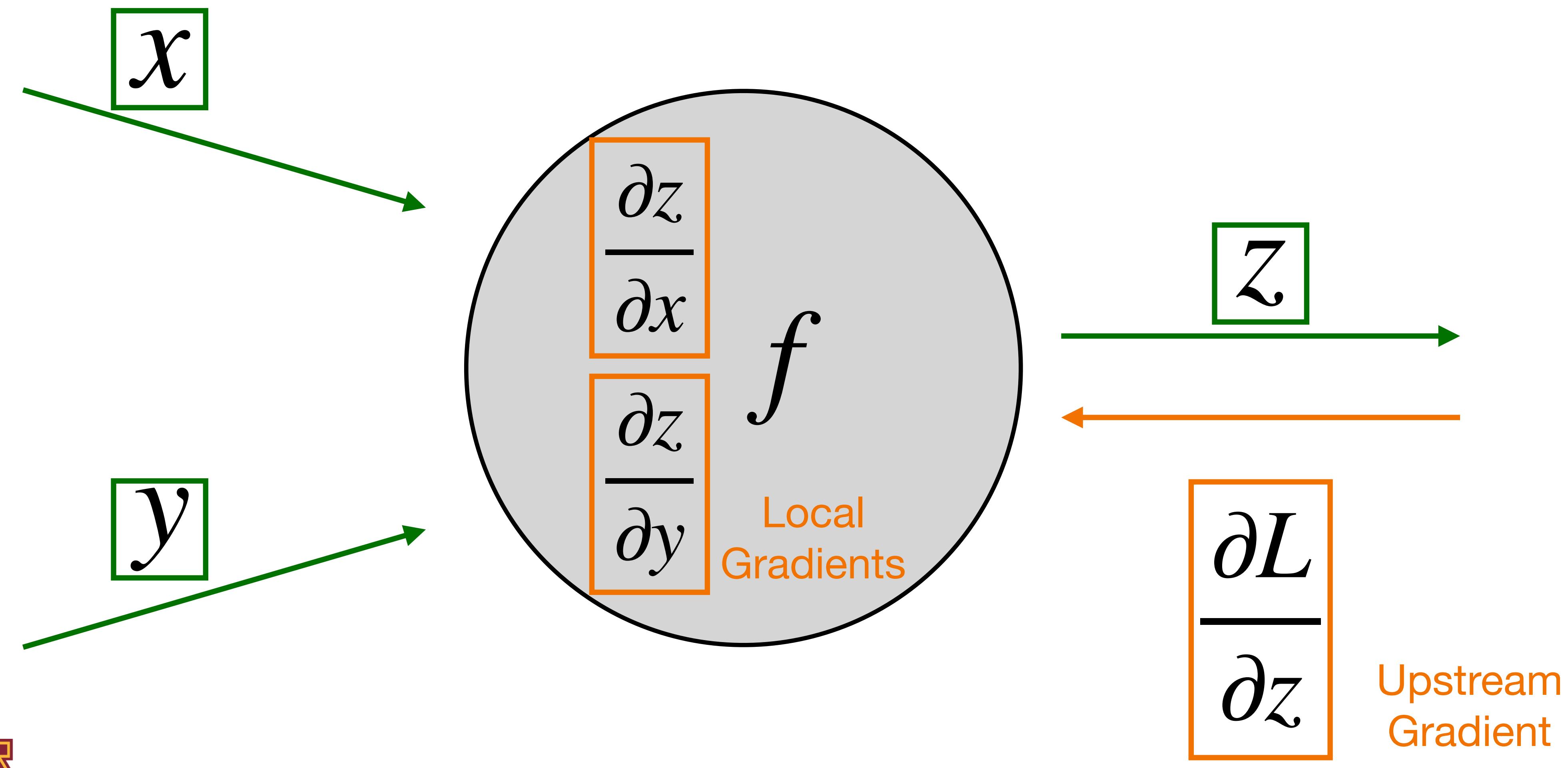
# Local Properties of Backpropagation



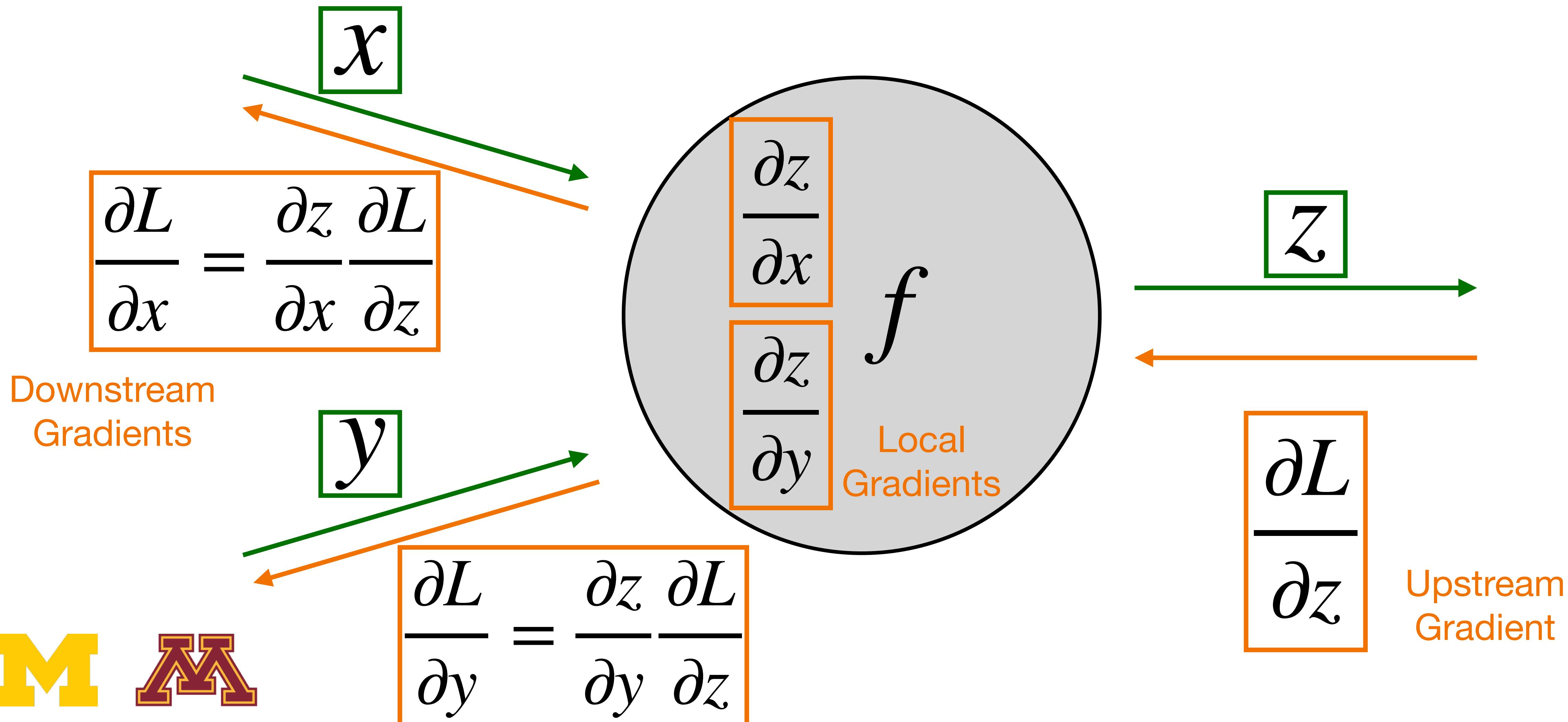
# Local Properties of Backpropagation



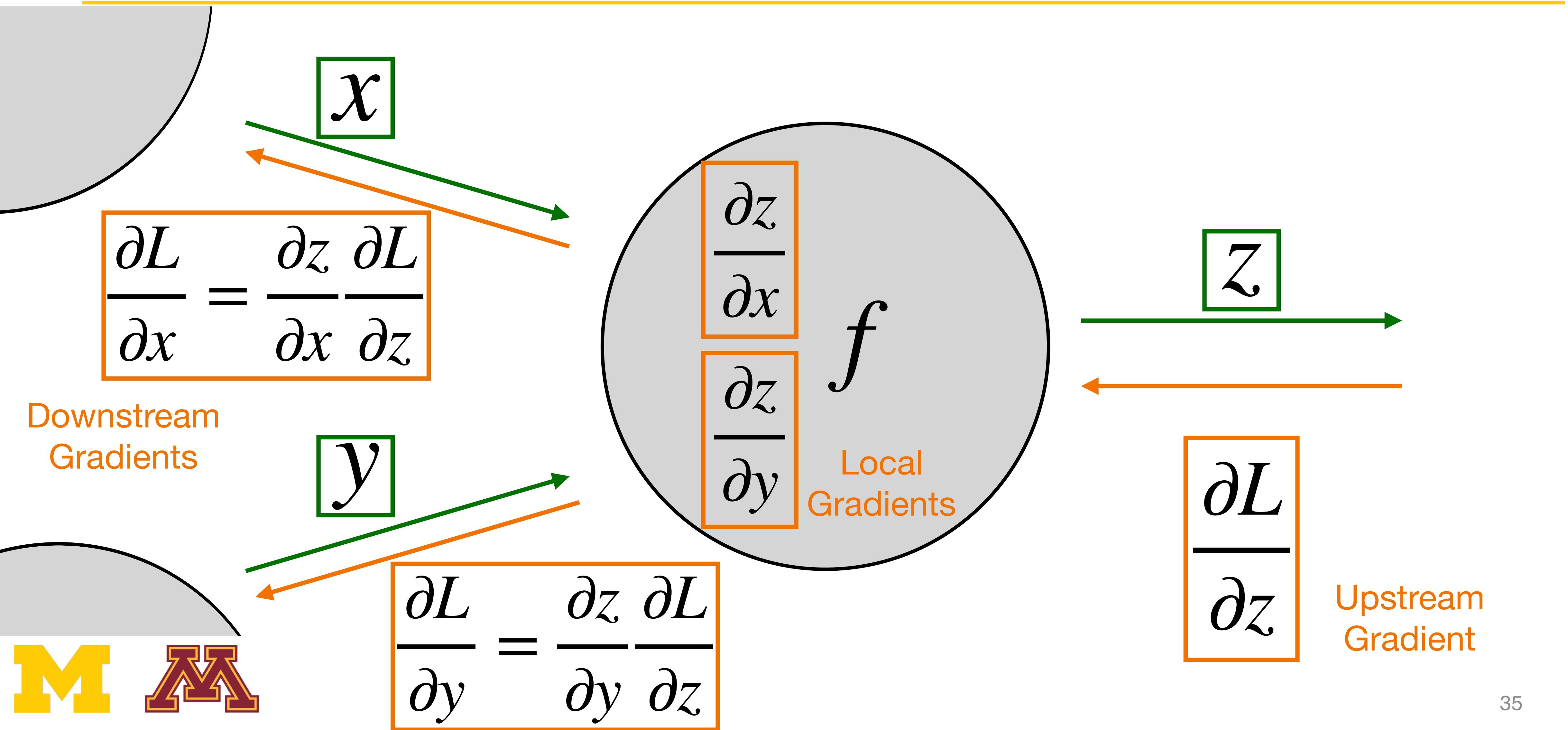
# Local Properties of Backpropagation



# Local Properties of Backpropagation



# Local Properties of Backpropagation



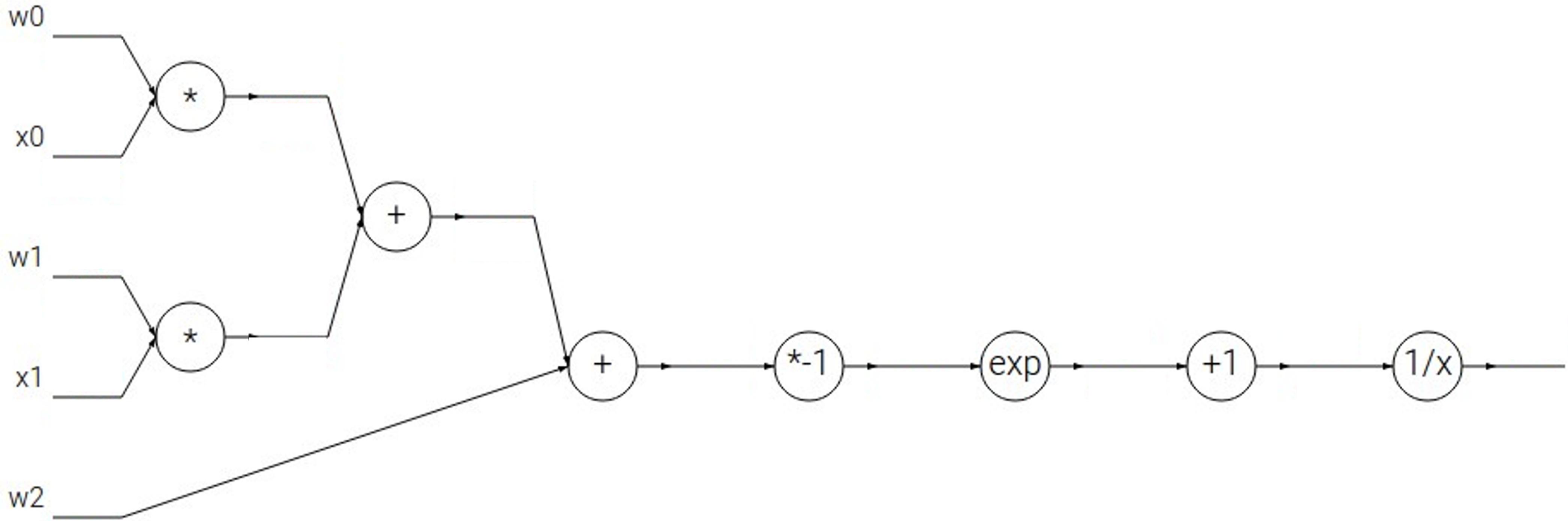
# Another example

---

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

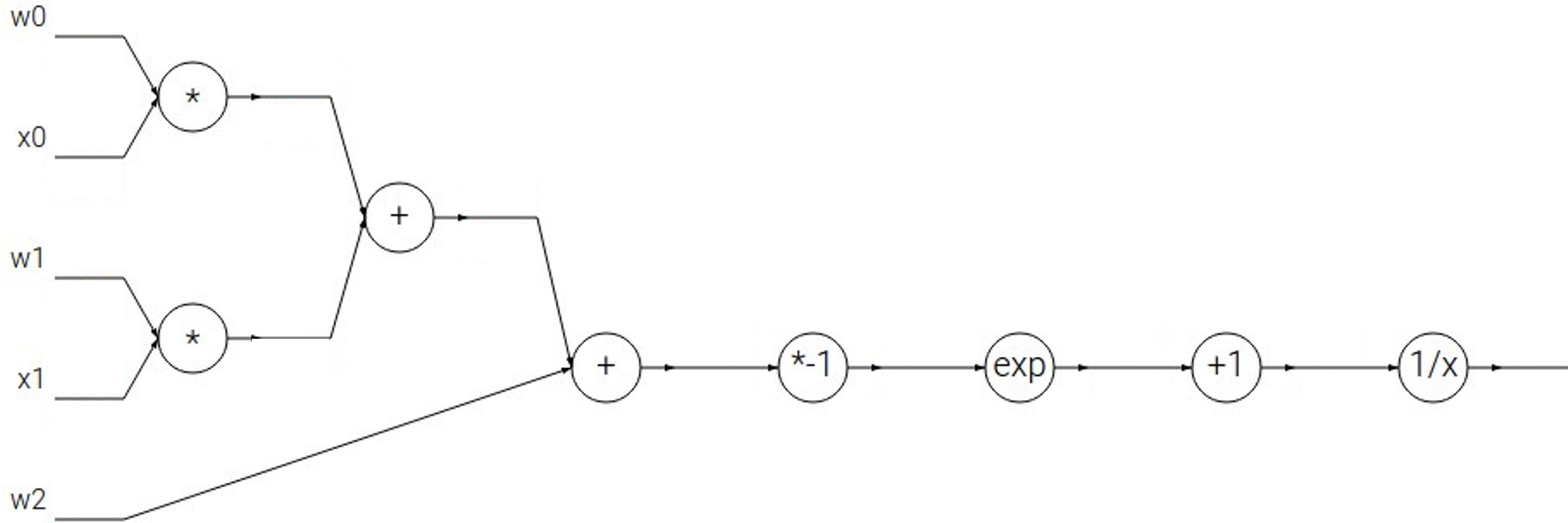
# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



# Another example

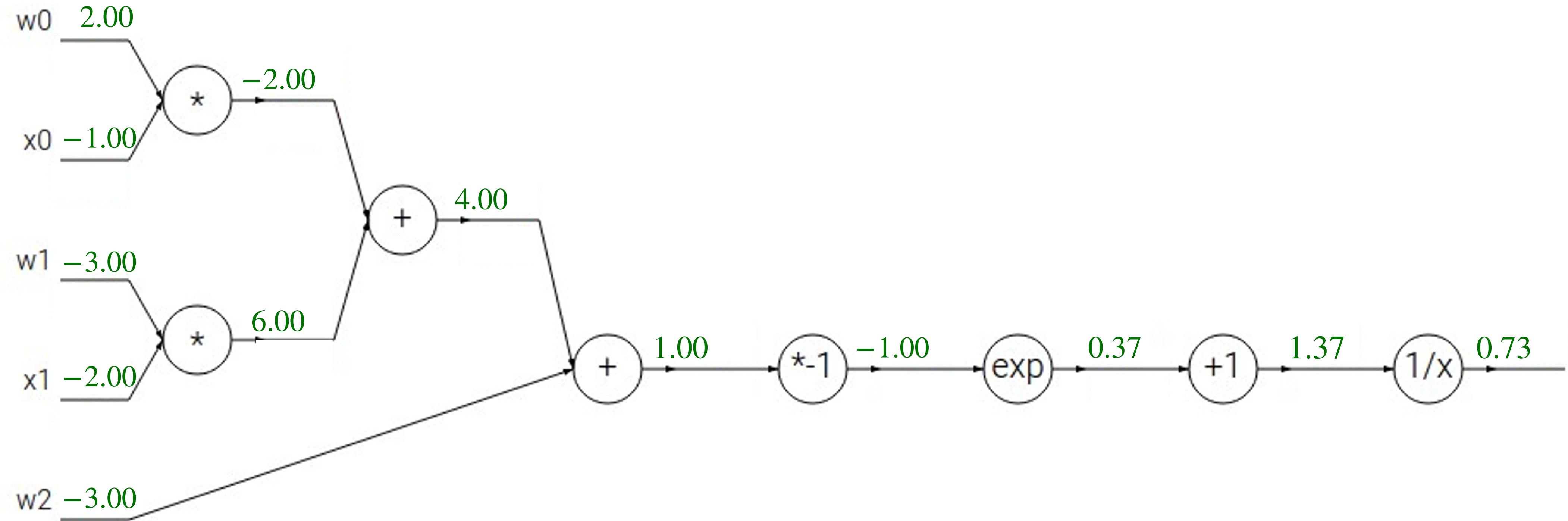
$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



**1. Forward pass: Compute outputs**

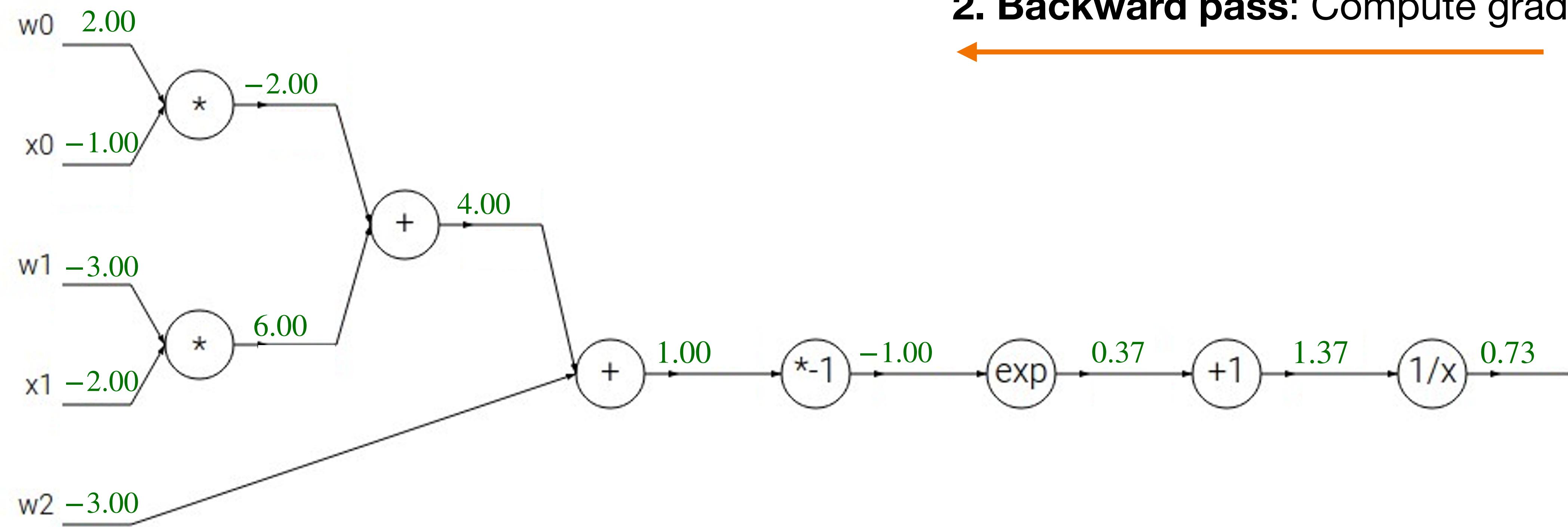
# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

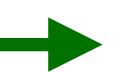


# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

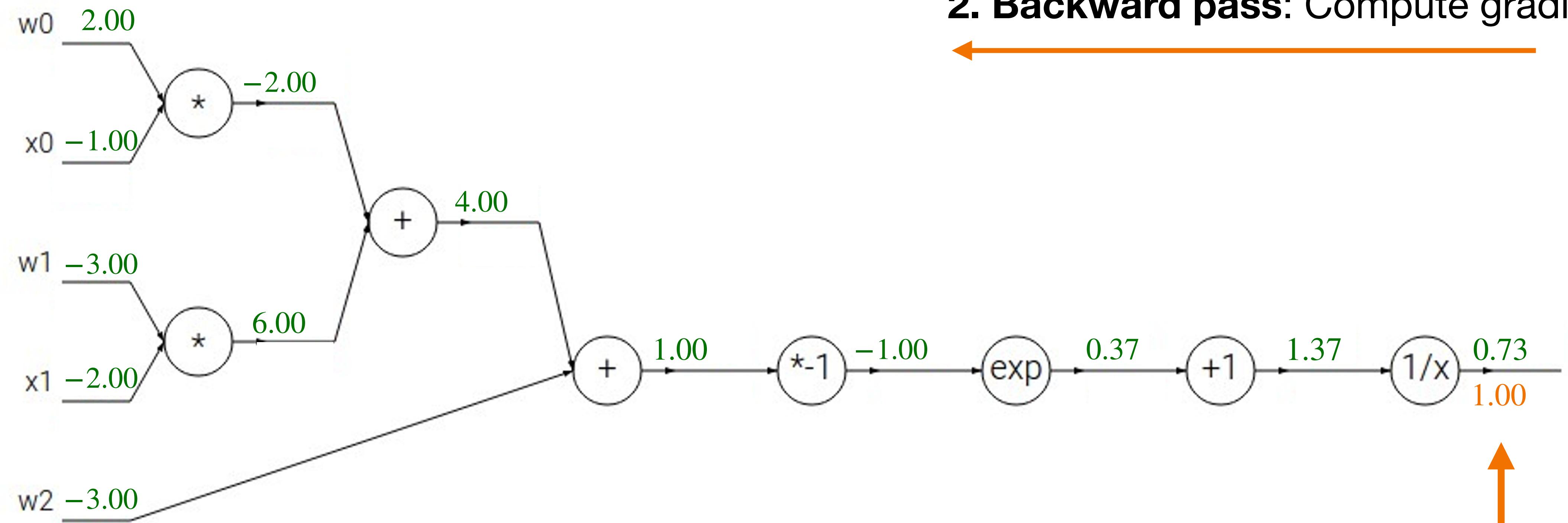


**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients



# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



Base Case

# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

```

graph LR
    x0[2.00] --> M1(( ))
    x1[-1.00] --> M1
    M1 -- "*" --> P1(( ))
    w0[2.00] --> P1
    P1 -- "-" --> S1(( ))
    S1 -- "+" --> P2(( ))
    w1[-3.00] --> P2
    P2 -- "*" --> M2(( ))
    x1[-2.00] --> M2
    M2 -- "6.00" --> P3(( ))
    P3 -- "*" --> S2(( ))
    S2 -- "+" --> P4(( ))
    w2[-3.00] --> P4
    P4 -- "1.00" --> M3(( ))
    M3 -- "-" --> P5(( ))
    P5 -- "1.00" --> M4(( ))
    M4 -- "0.37" --> EXP((exp))
    EXP -- "0.37" --> M5(( ))
    M5 -- "-1.00" --> M6(( ))
    M6 -- "*" --> M7(( ))
    M7 -- "-1" --> M8(( ))
    M8 -- "+" --> M9(( ))
    M9 -- "0.37" --> M10(( ))
    M10 -- "+1" --> EXP
    EXP -- "0.73" --> M11(( ))
    M11 -- "0.73" --> M12(( ))
    M12 -- "1.00" --> ONE_X((1/x))
    ONE_X -- "-0.53" --> M13(( ))
    ONE_X -- "1.00" --> M14(( ))
    M13 -- "1.37" --> M15(( ))
    M15 -- "1.37" --> M16(( ))
    M16 -- "0.73" --> M17(( ))
    
```

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients

Local Gradient

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ \frac{1}{x} \right] = -\frac{1}{x^2}$$

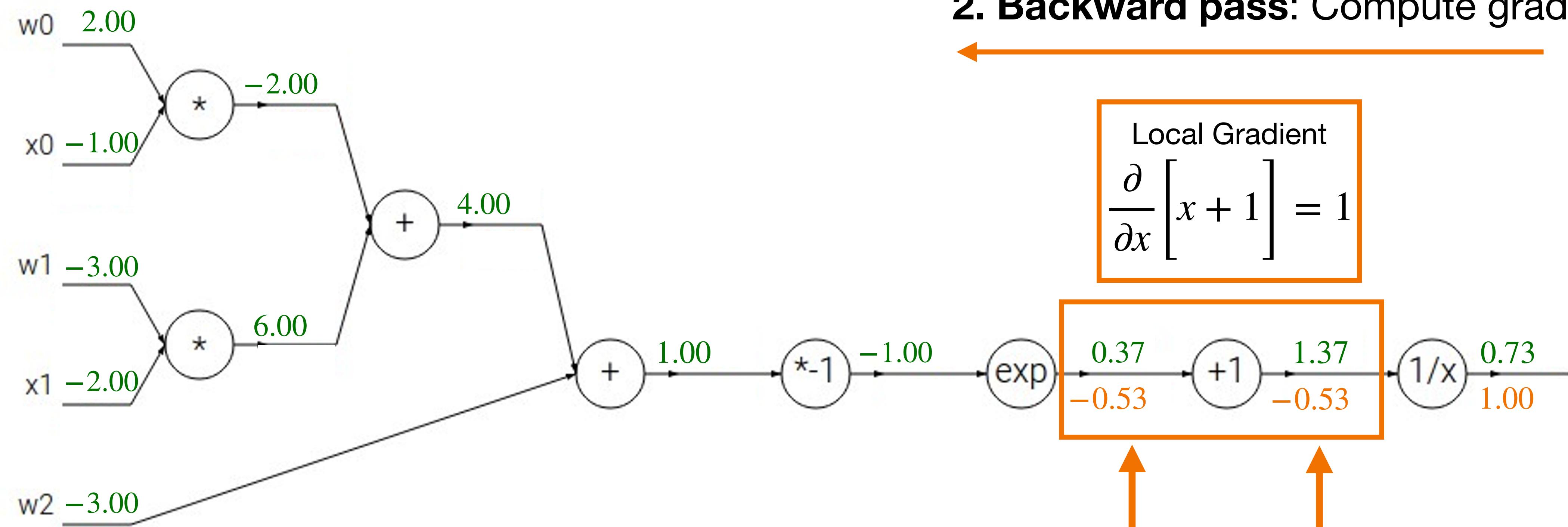
$$\begin{matrix} 1.37 \\ -0.53 \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} 0.73 \\ 1.00 \end{matrix}$$

Downstream  
Gradient

Upstream  
Gradient

# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



1. Forward pass: Compute outputs

2. Backward pass: Compute gradients

Local Gradient

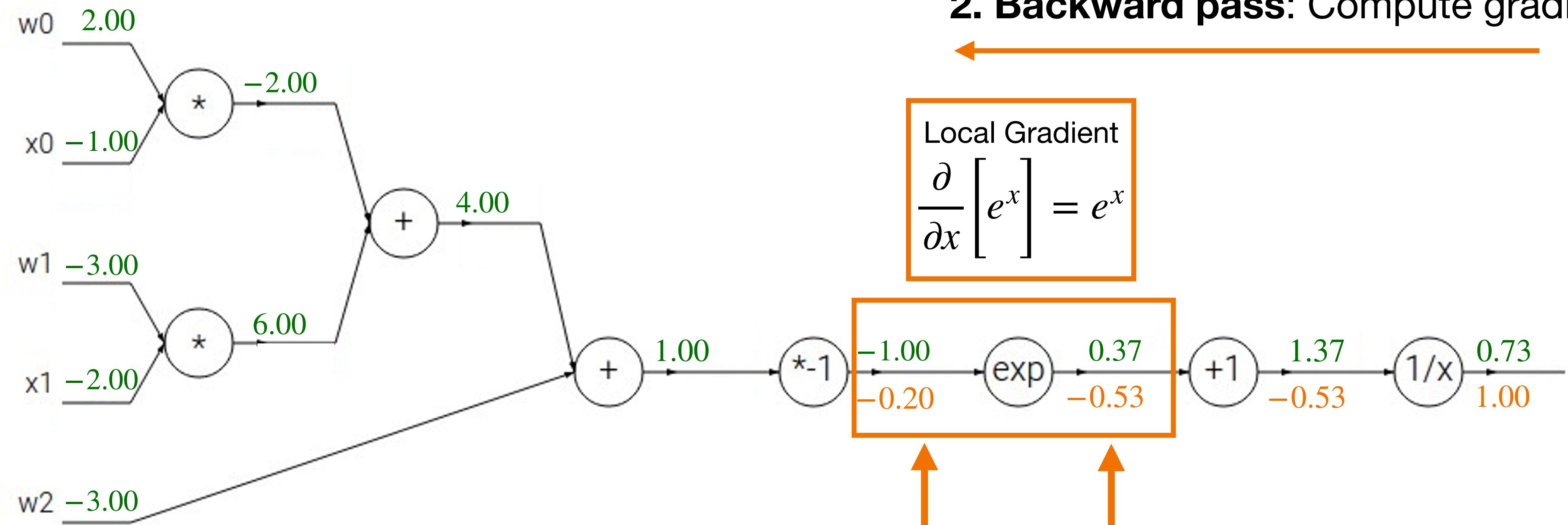
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [x + 1] = 1$$

Downstream Gradient

Upstream Gradient

# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

$$\begin{matrix} w_0 & 2.00 \\ x_0 & -1.00 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} w_1 & -3.00 \\ x_1 & -2.00 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} w_2 & -3.00 \end{matrix}$$

Local Gradient

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [-1 \cdot x] = -1$$

$$\begin{matrix} 1.00 & -1.00 \\ 0.20 & -0.20 \end{matrix}$$

Downstream  
Gradient

**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients



$$\begin{matrix} *-1 & \exp \\ -1.00 & -0.53 \end{matrix}$$

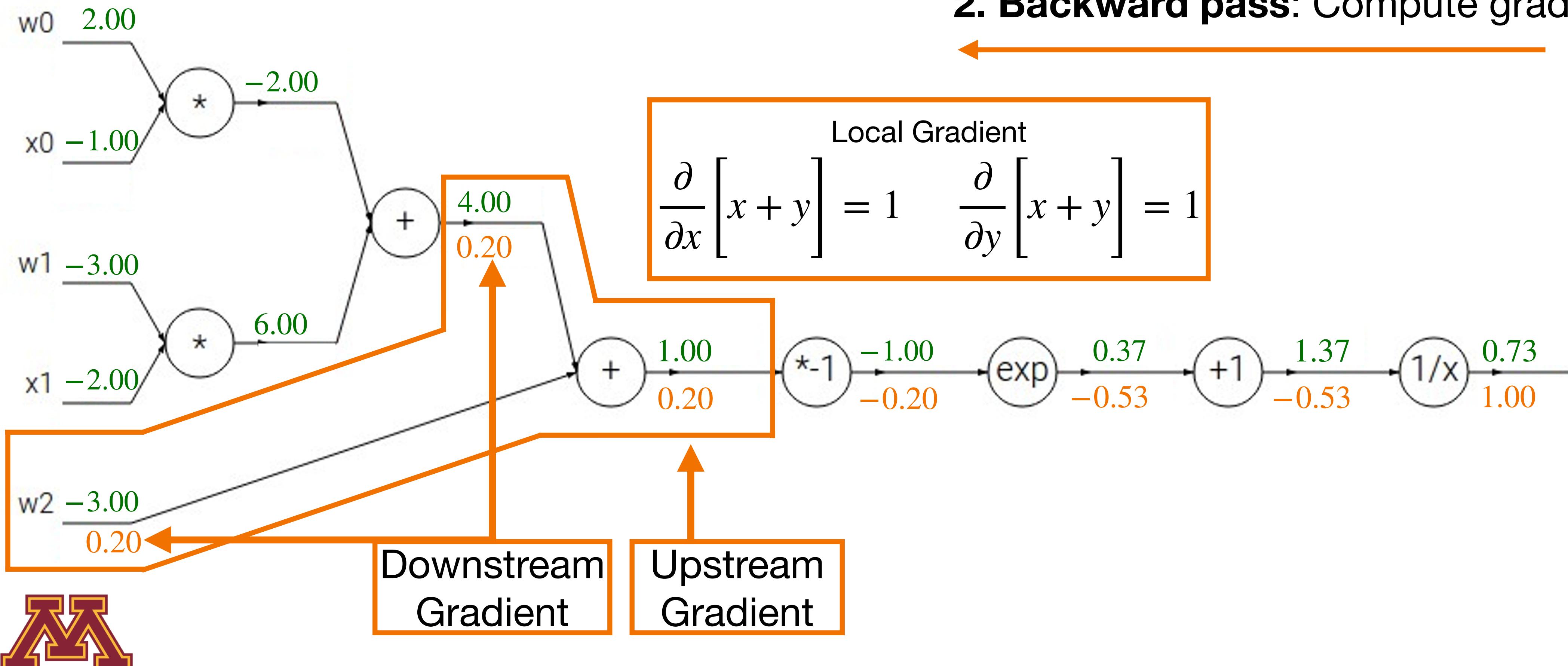
Upstream  
Gradient

$$\begin{matrix} 0.37 & 1.37 \\ -0.53 & -0.53 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} 0.73 & 1.00 \end{matrix}$$

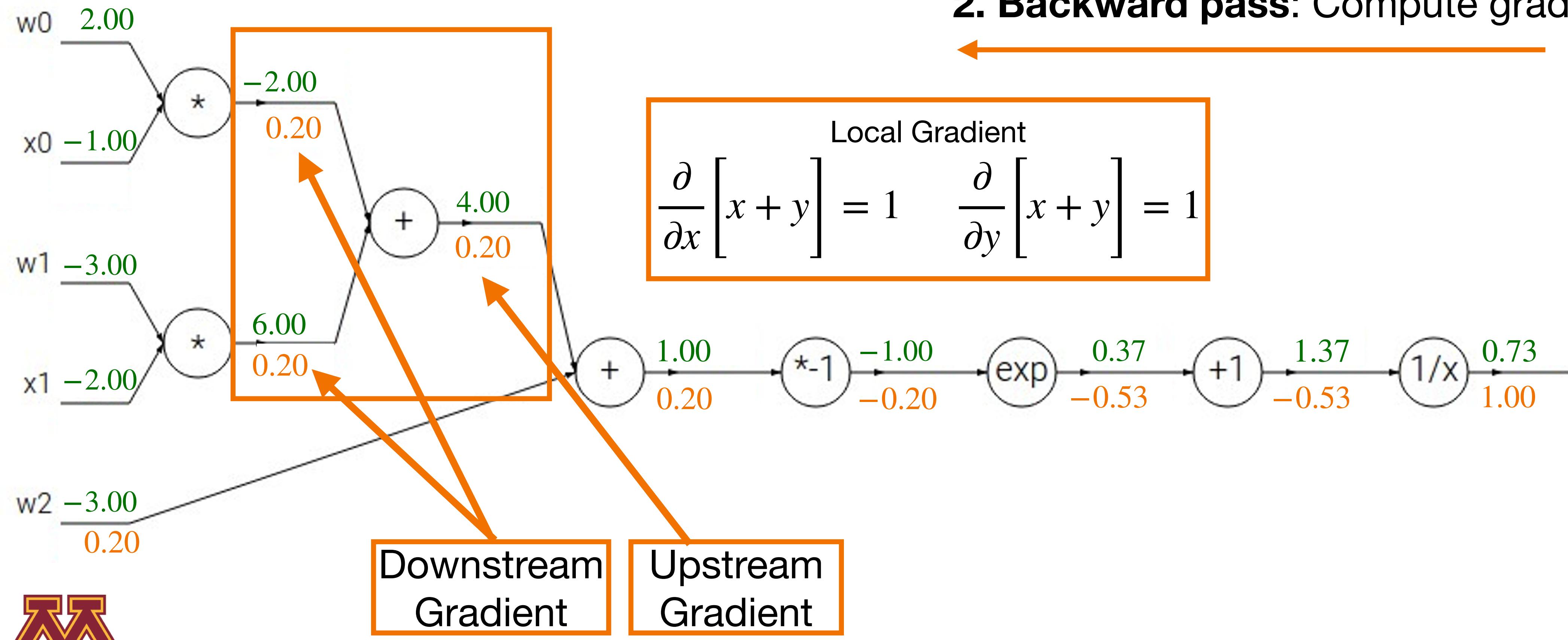
# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



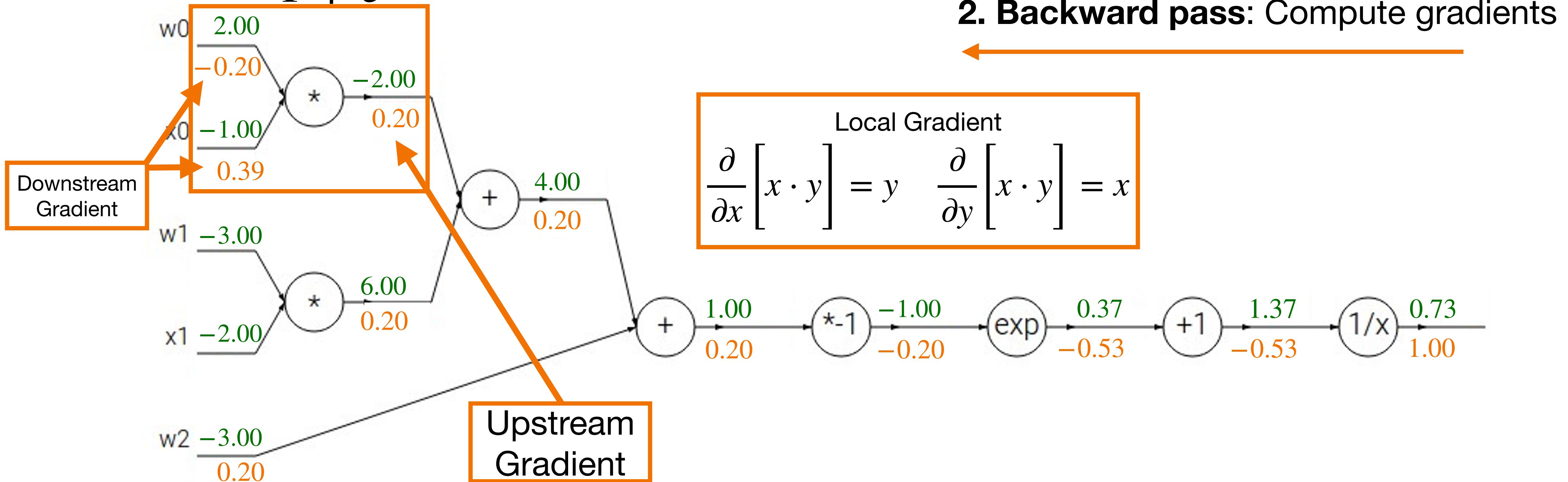
# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



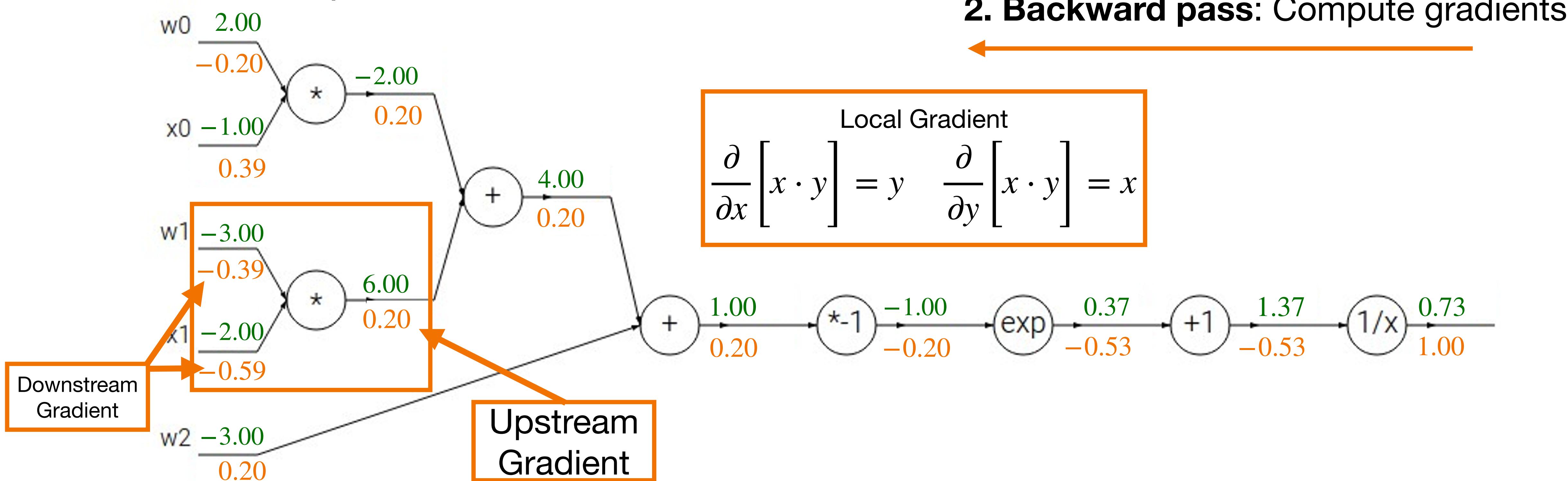
# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



# Another example

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$



# Another example

The diagram illustrates the calculation of the sigmoid function  $f(x, w)$  for a given input vector  $x$  and weight matrix  $w$ .

The sigmoid function is defined as:

$$f(x, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)}}$$

This can be simplified to:

$$= \sigma(w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2)$$

The diagram shows the computation of the weighted sum  $w_0x_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2$  through a series of operations:

- Input Layer:** Inputs  $x_0 = -1.00$  and  $x_1 = -2.00$  are multiplied by weights  $w_0 = 2.00$  and  $w_1 = -3.00$  respectively. The results are  $-2.00$  and  $6.00$ .
- Hidden Layer:** The results from the first layer are summed. The sum is  $-2.00 + 6.00 = 4.00$ . This result is then multiplied by weight  $w_2 = -3.00$  to produce the final output of  $1.00$ .
- Sigmoid Function:** The final output  $1.00$  is passed through a sigmoid function  $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$ . The diagram shows the calculation of the sigmoid function using the formula  $\sigma(x) = \frac{e^x}{1 + e^x}$ .

**Sigmoid Function Calculation:**

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{e^x}{1 + e^x}$$

The diagram also shows the calculation of the derivative of the sigmoid function:

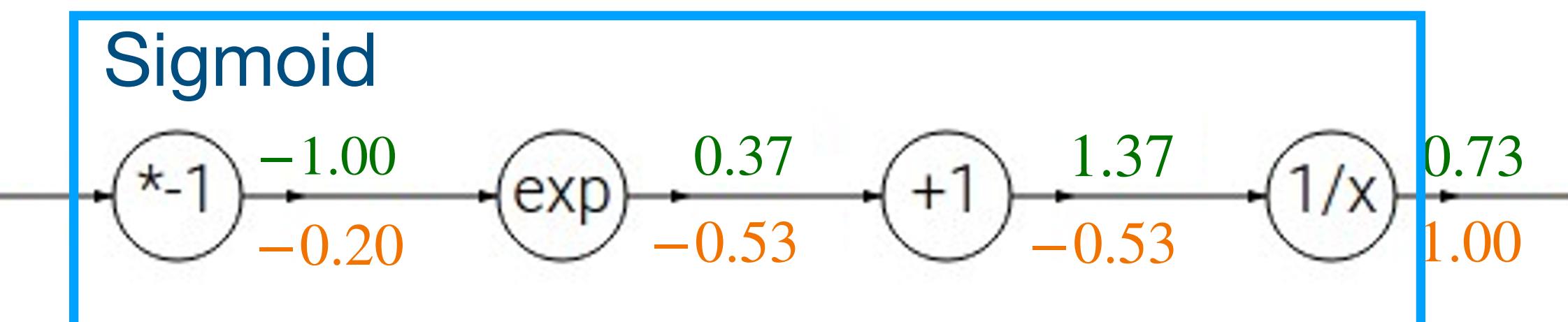
$$\sigma'(x) = \sigma(x)(1 - \sigma(x))$$

# 1. Forward pass: Compute outputs

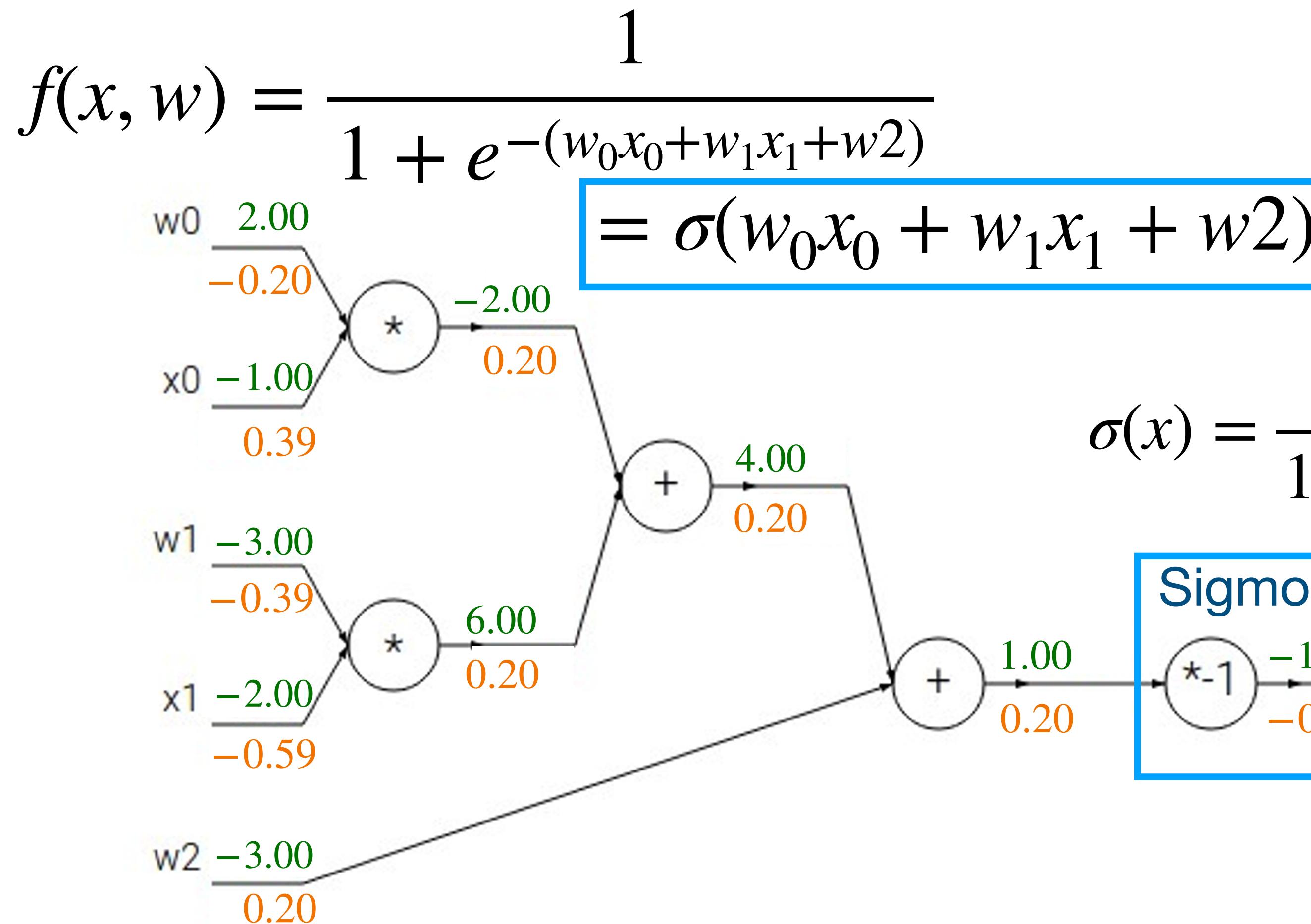
## 2. Backward pass: Compute gradients

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

Computational graph is not unique: we can use primitives that have simple local gradients



# Another example



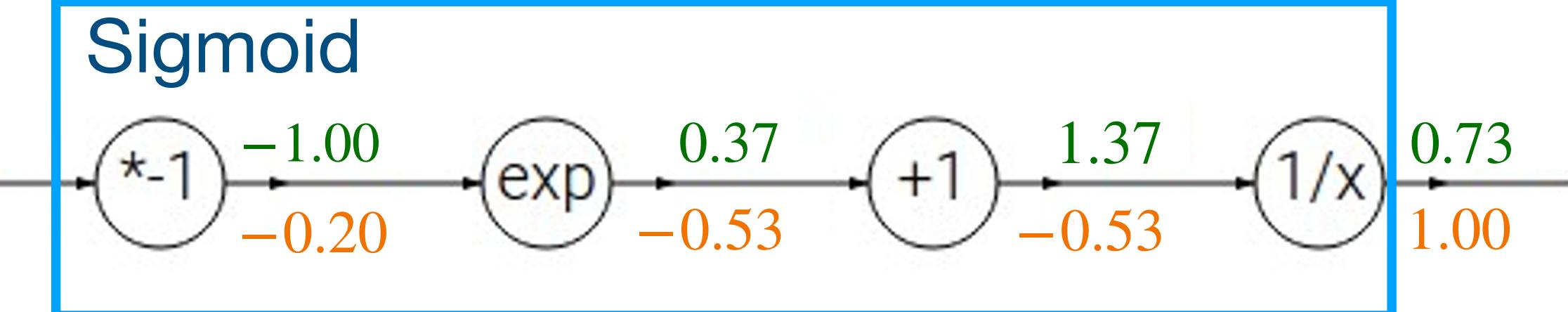
**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients

Computational graph is not unique: we can use primitives that have simple local gradients

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

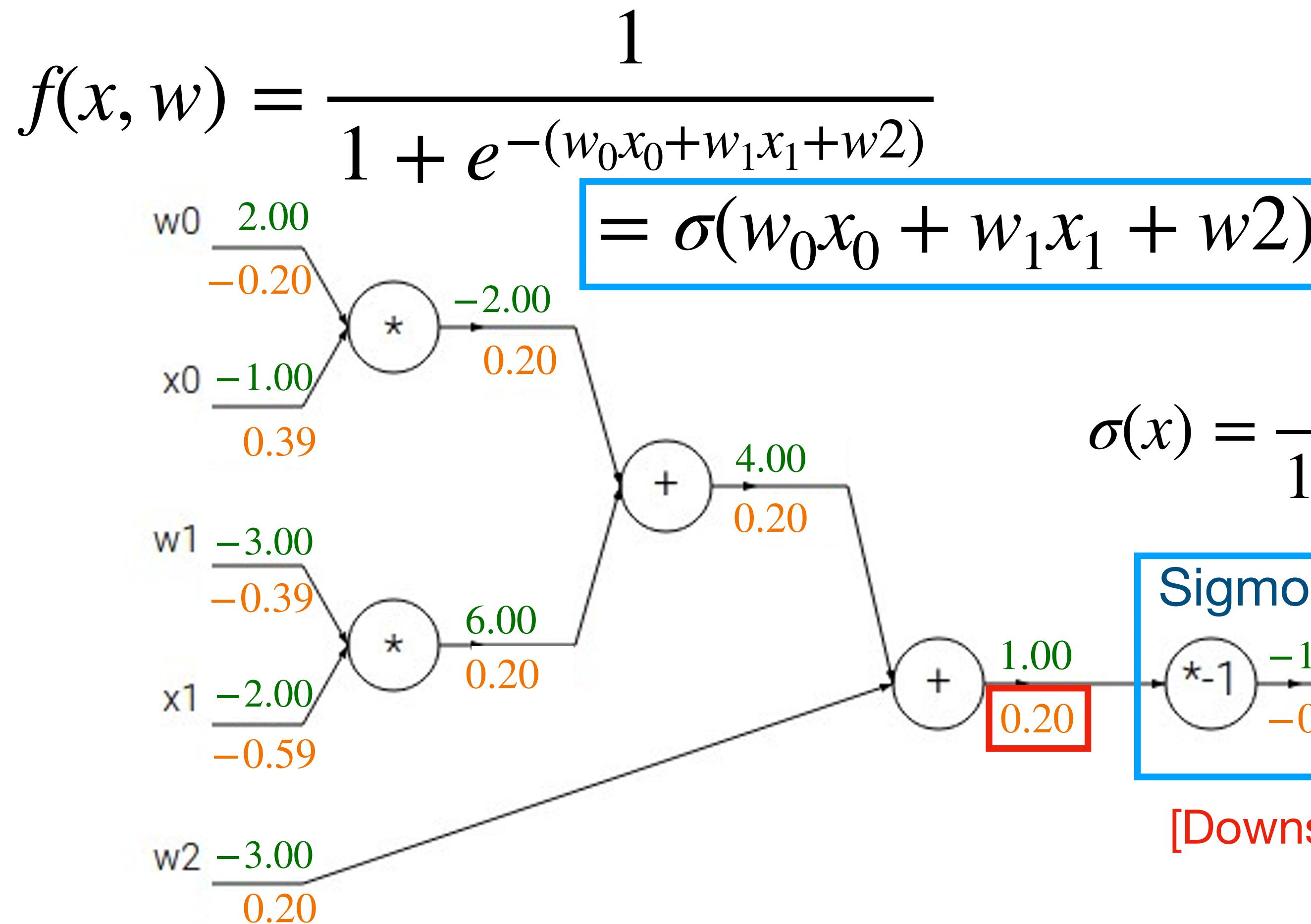
Sigmoid



Sigmoid local gradient:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [\sigma(x)] = \frac{e^{-x}}{(1 + e^{-x})^2} = \left( \frac{1 + e^{-x} - 1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) = (1 - \sigma(x))\sigma(x)$$

# Another example



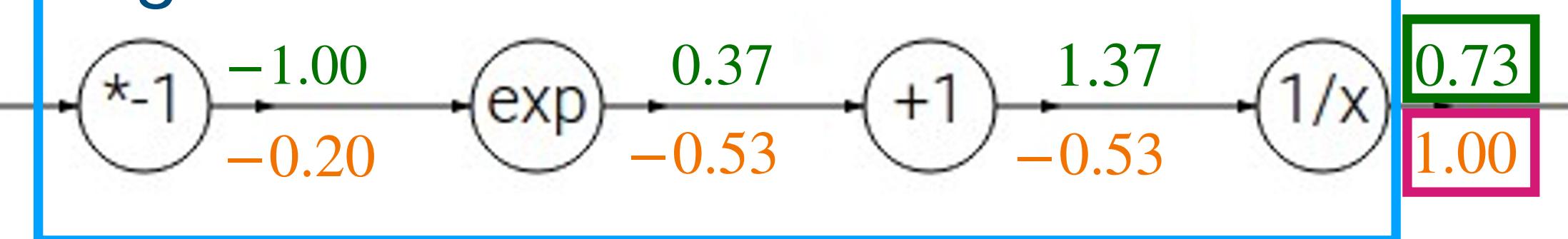
**1. Forward pass:** Compute outputs

**2. Backward pass:** Compute gradients

Computational graph is not unique: we can use primitives that have simple local gradients

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

Sigmoid



$$[\text{Downstream}] = [\text{Local}] \cdot [\text{Upstream}]$$

$$= (1 - 0.73) \cdot 0.73 \cdot 1.00 = 0.20$$



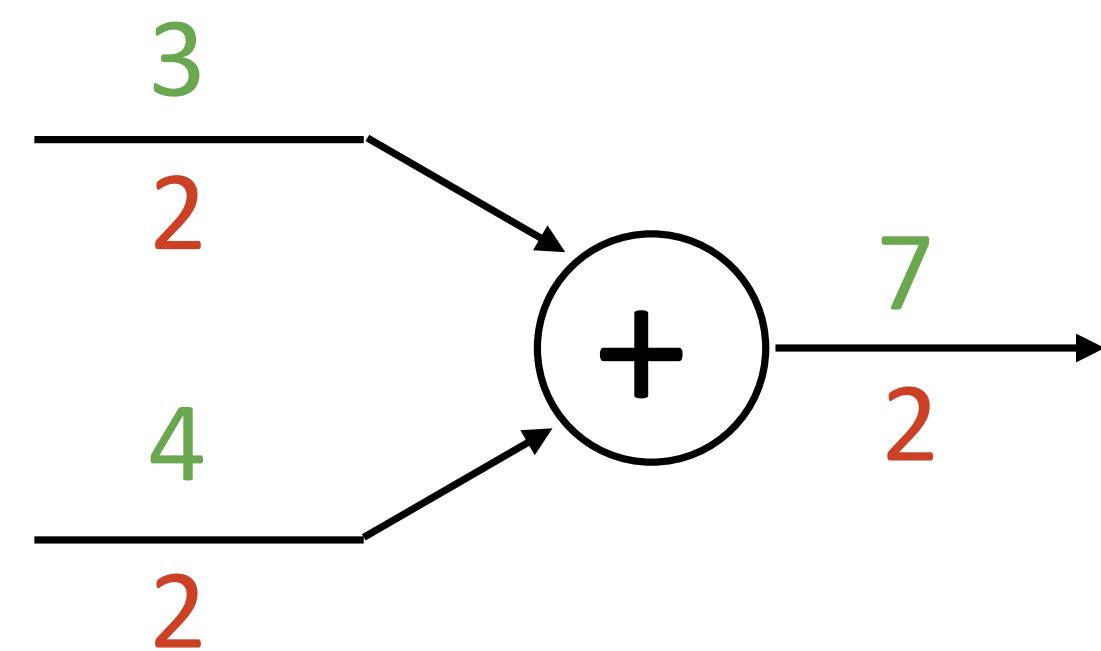
Sigmoid local  
gradient:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ \sigma(x) \right] = \frac{e^{-x}}{(1 + e^{-x})^2} = \left( \frac{1 + e^{-x} - 1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \right) = (1 - \sigma(x))\sigma(x)$$

# Patterns in Gradient Flow

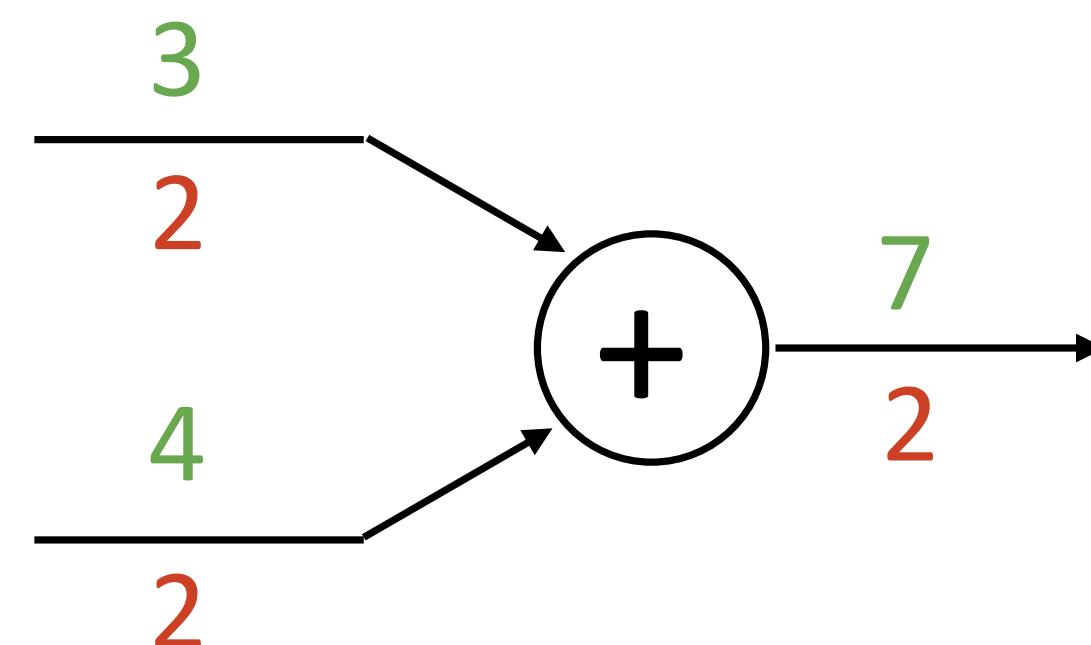
---

add gate: gradient distributor

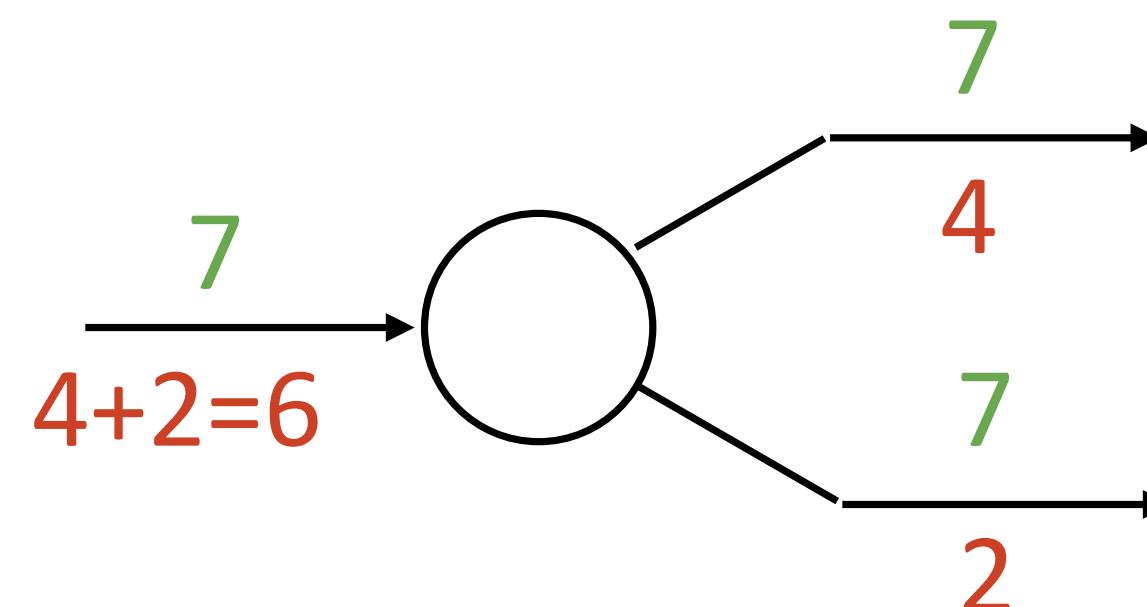


# Patterns in Gradient Flow

**add gate: gradient distributor**

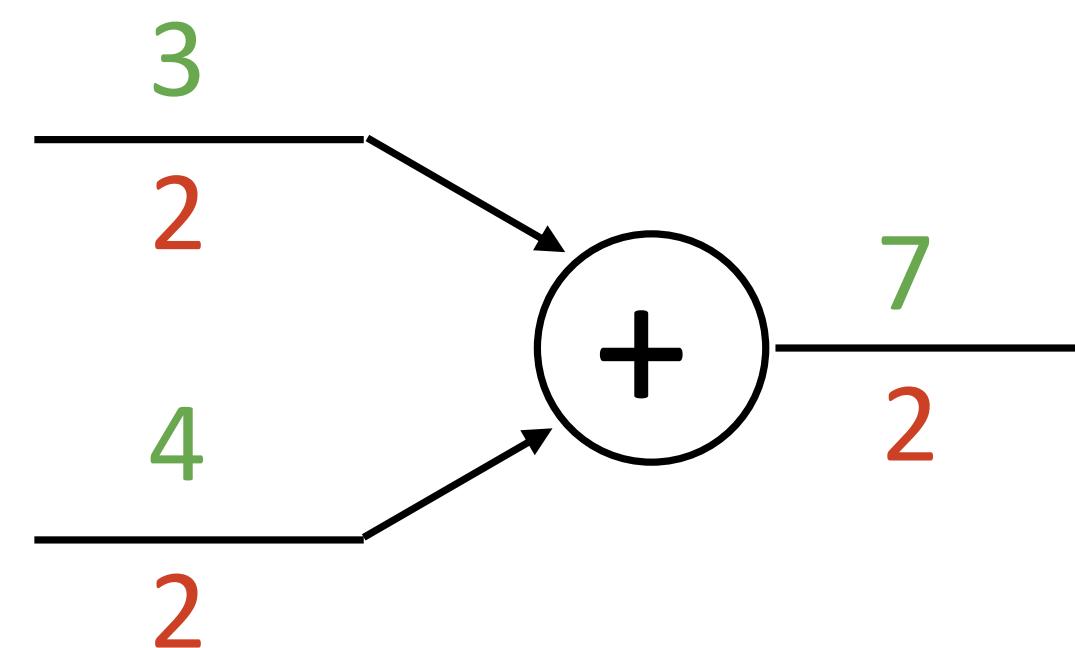


**copy gate: gradient adder**

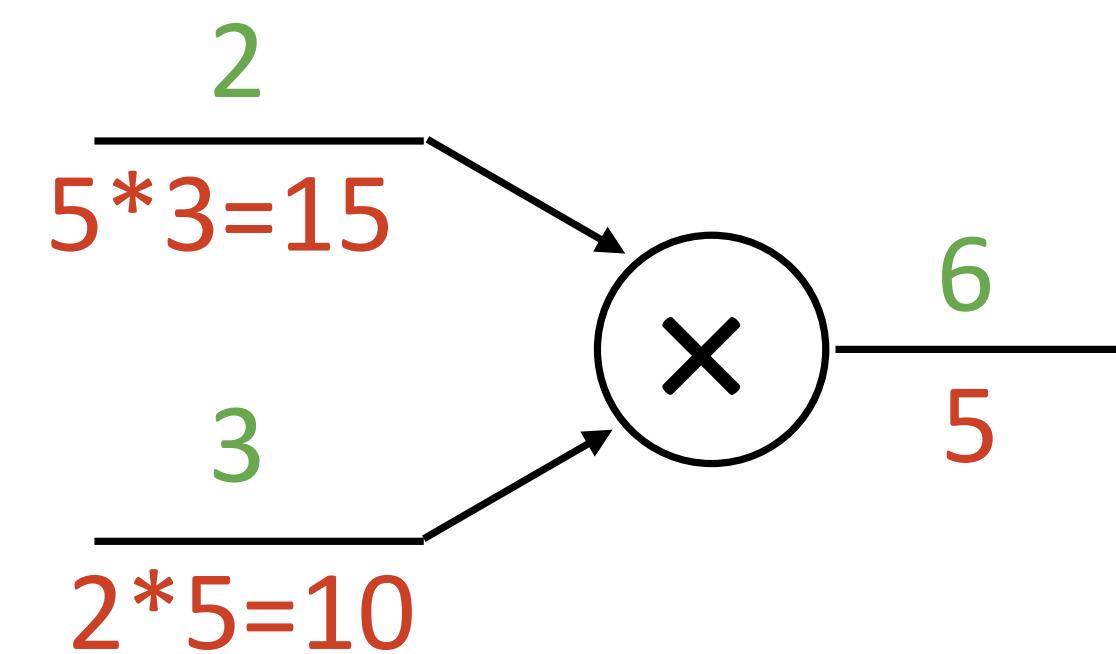


# Patterns in Gradient Flow

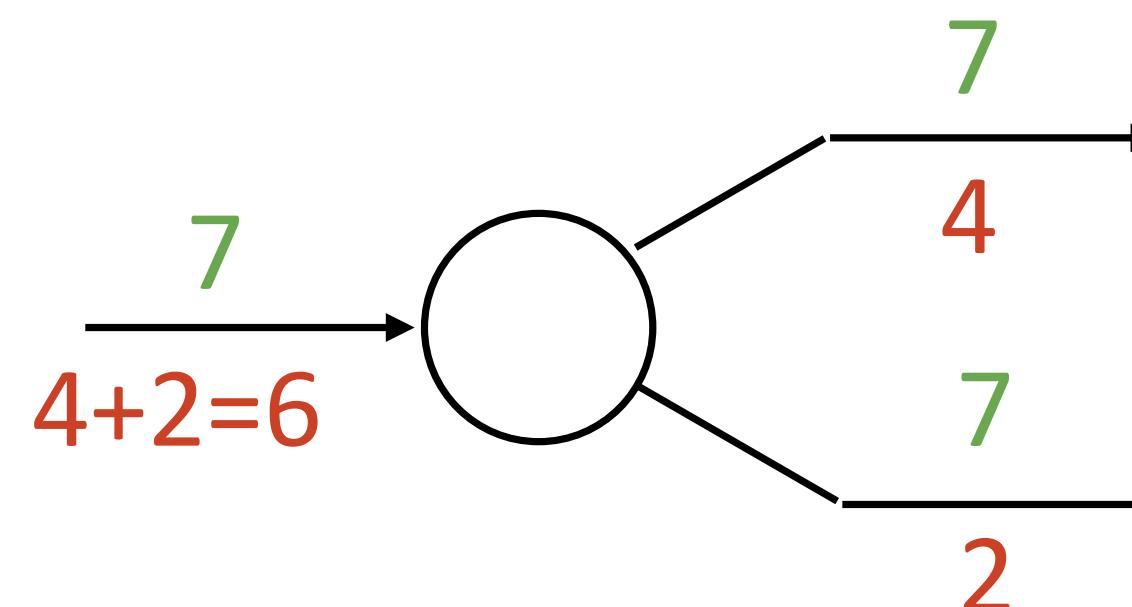
**add gate: gradient distributor**



**mul gate: “swap multiplier”**

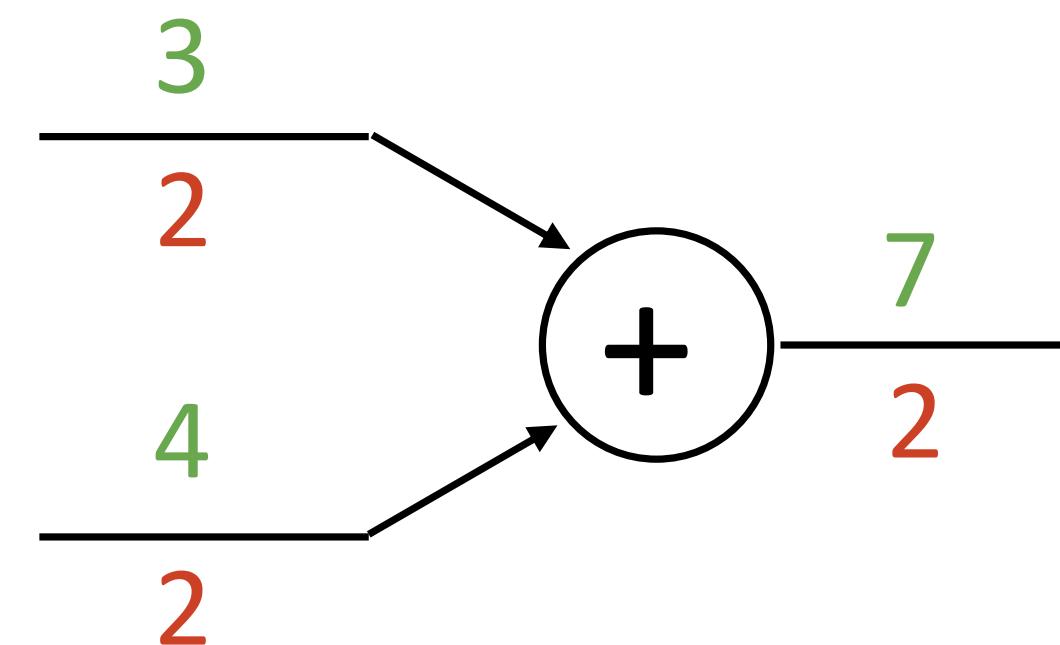


**copy gate: gradient adder**

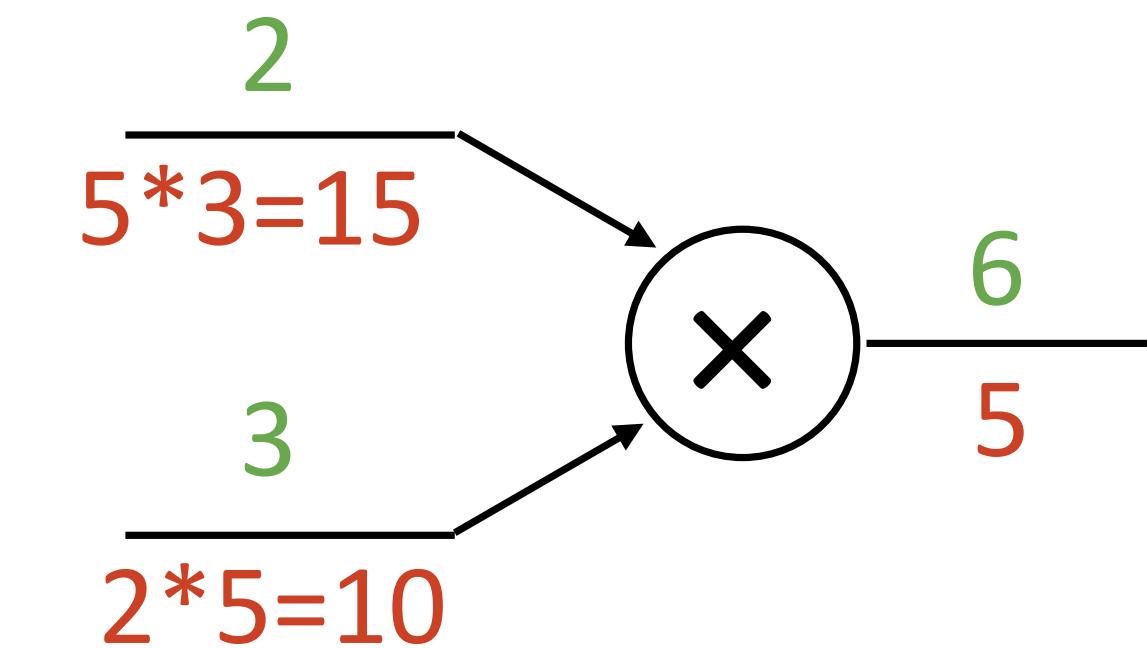


# Patterns in Gradient Flow

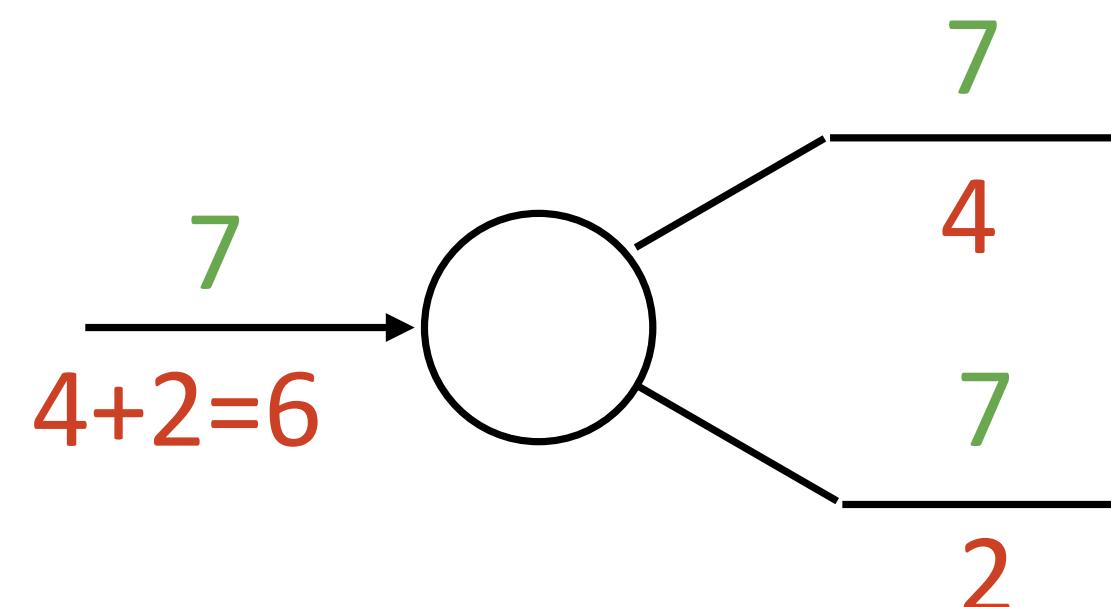
**add gate: gradient distributor**



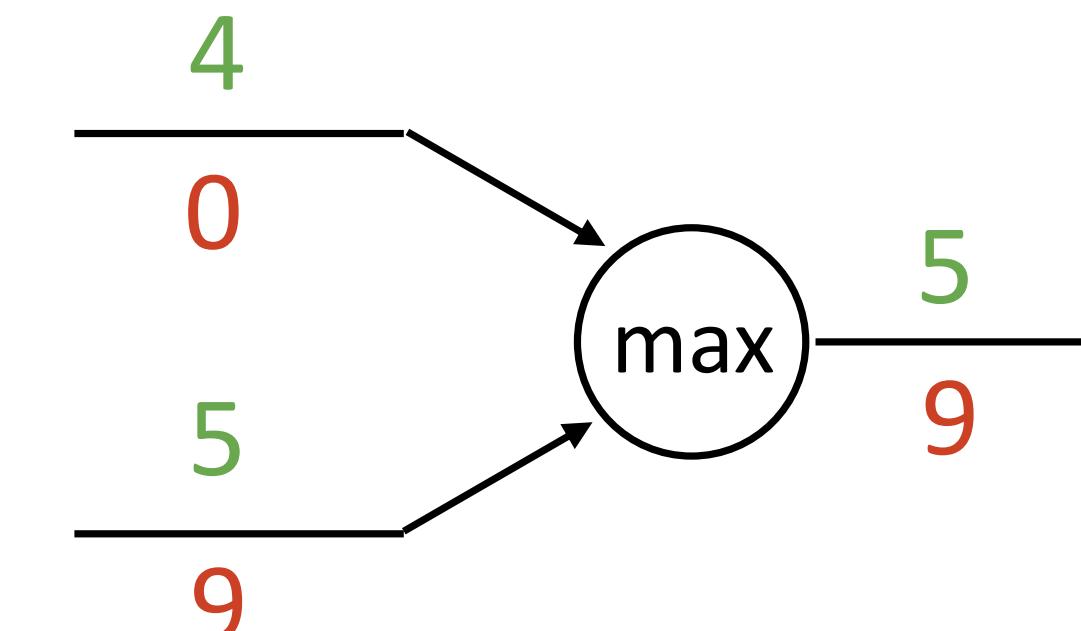
**mul gate: “swap multiplier”**



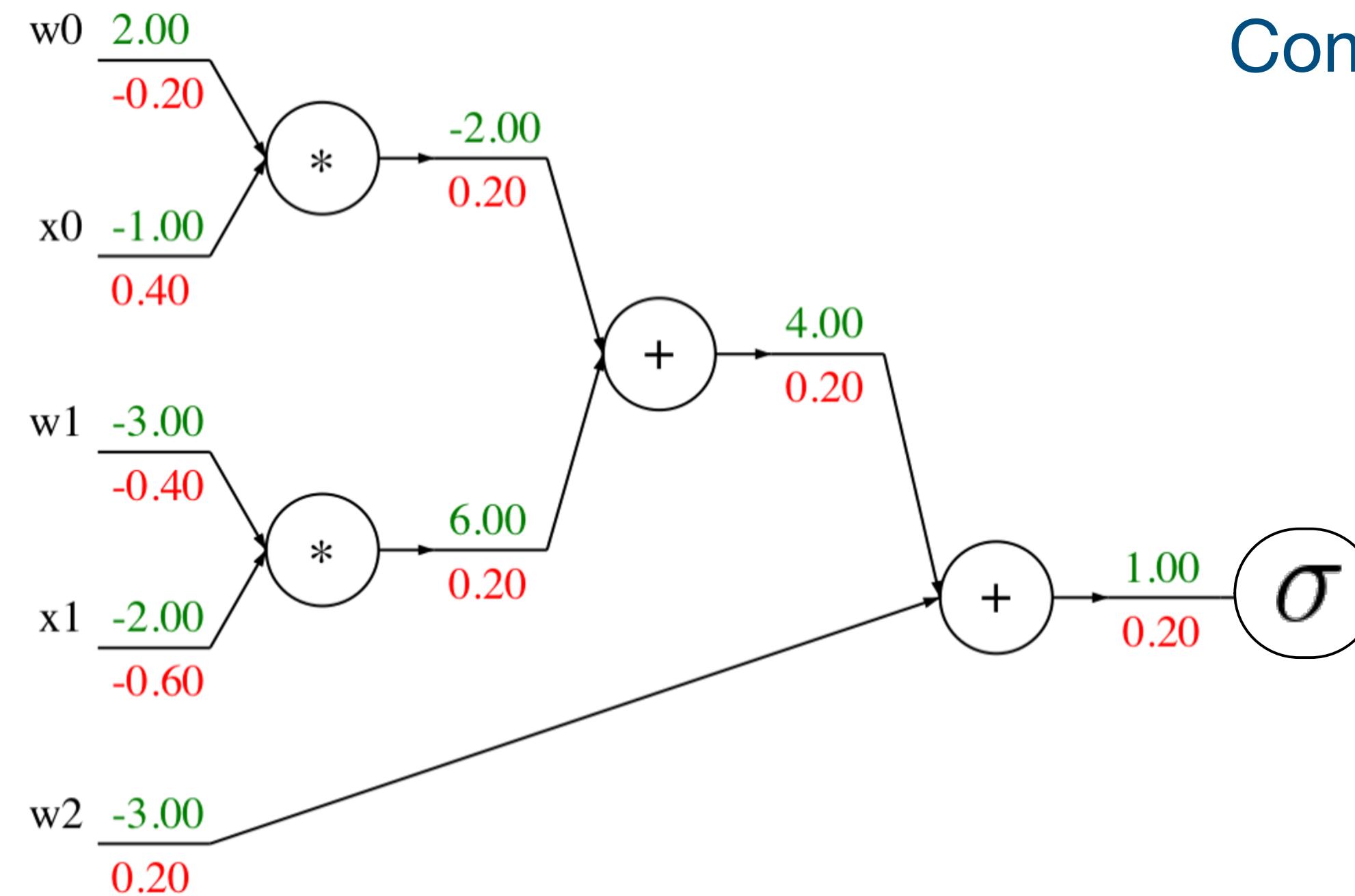
**copy gate: gradient adder**



**max gate: gradient router**



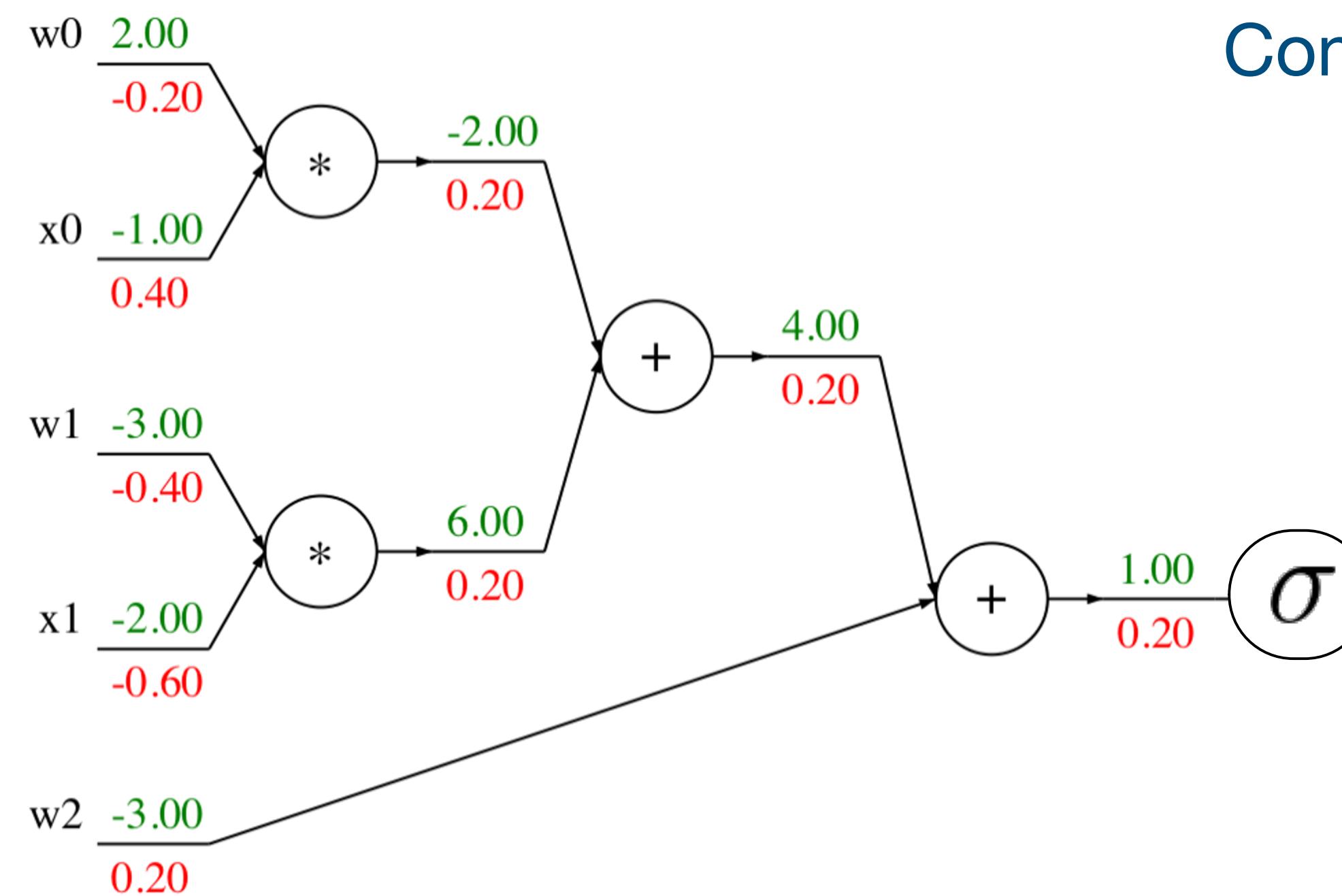
# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):  
    s0 = w0 * x0  
    s1 = w1 * x1  
    s2 = s0 + s1  
    s3 = s2 + w2  
    L = sigmoid(s3)
```

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



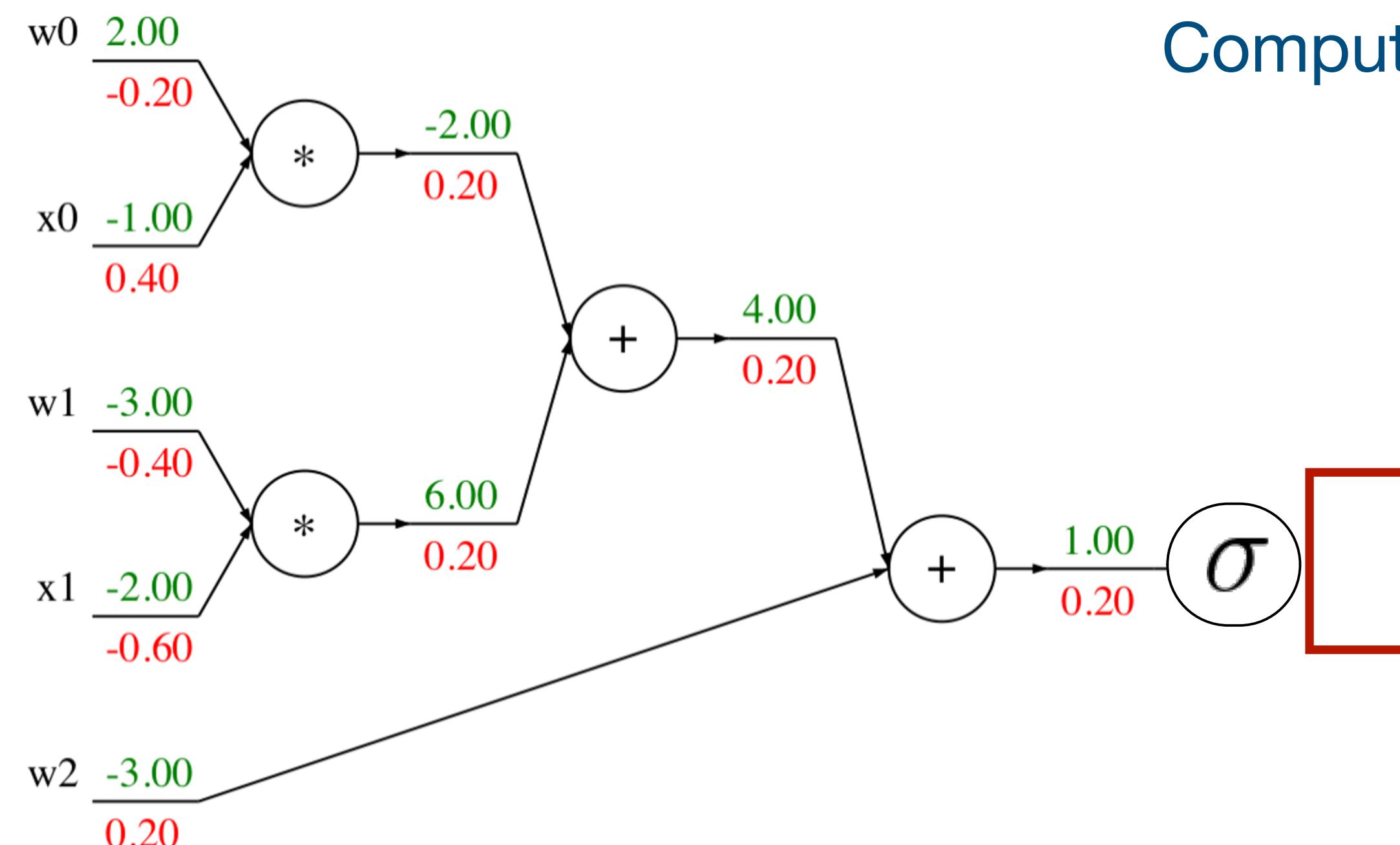
**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

```
grad_L = 1.0
grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
grad_w2 = grad_s3
grad_s2 = grad_s3
grad_s0 = grad_s2
grad_s1 = grad_s2
grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

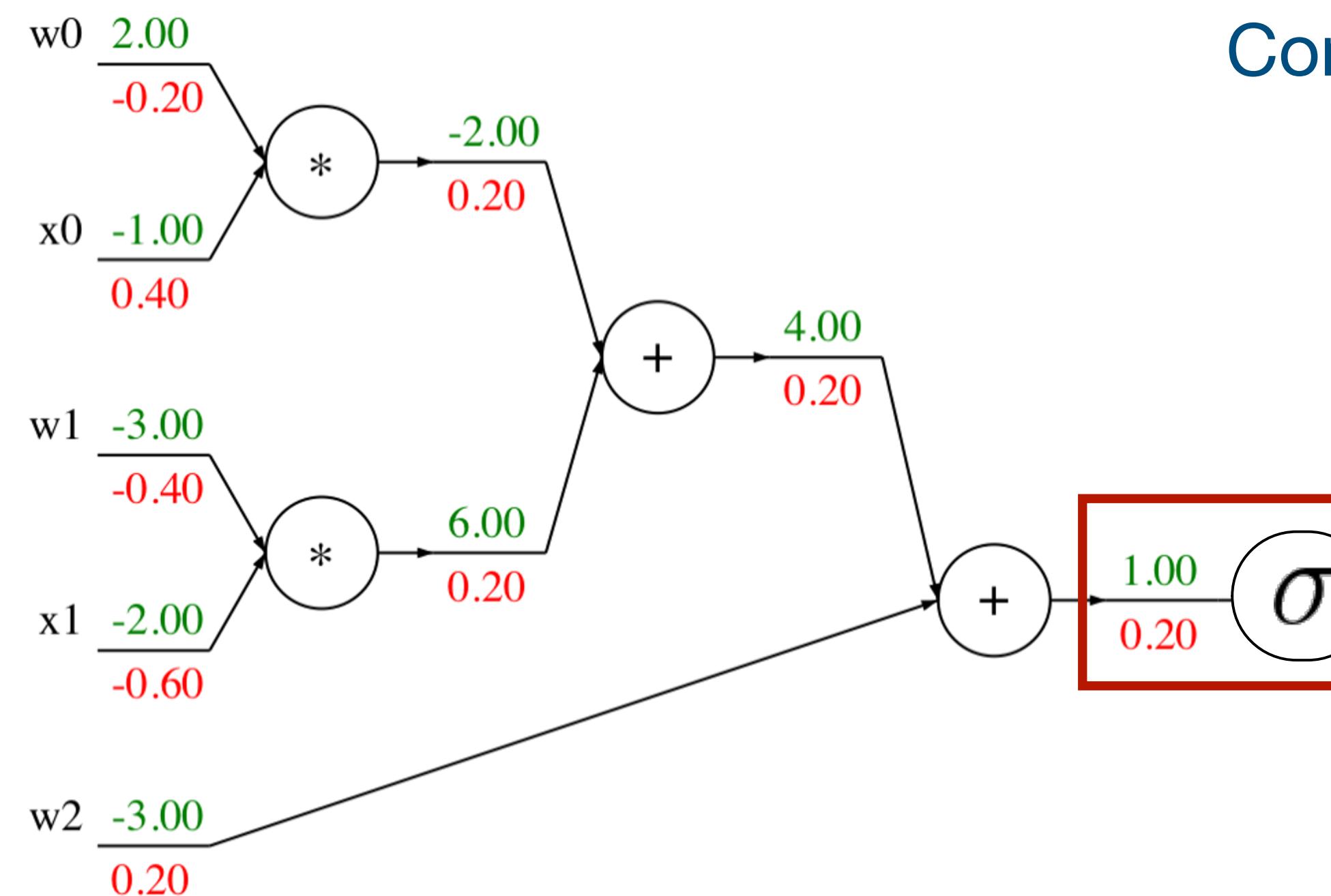
```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)
```

Base case

```
grad_L = 1.0
grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
grad_w2 = grad_s3
grad_s2 = grad_s3
grad_s0 = grad_s2
grad_s1 = grad_s2
grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

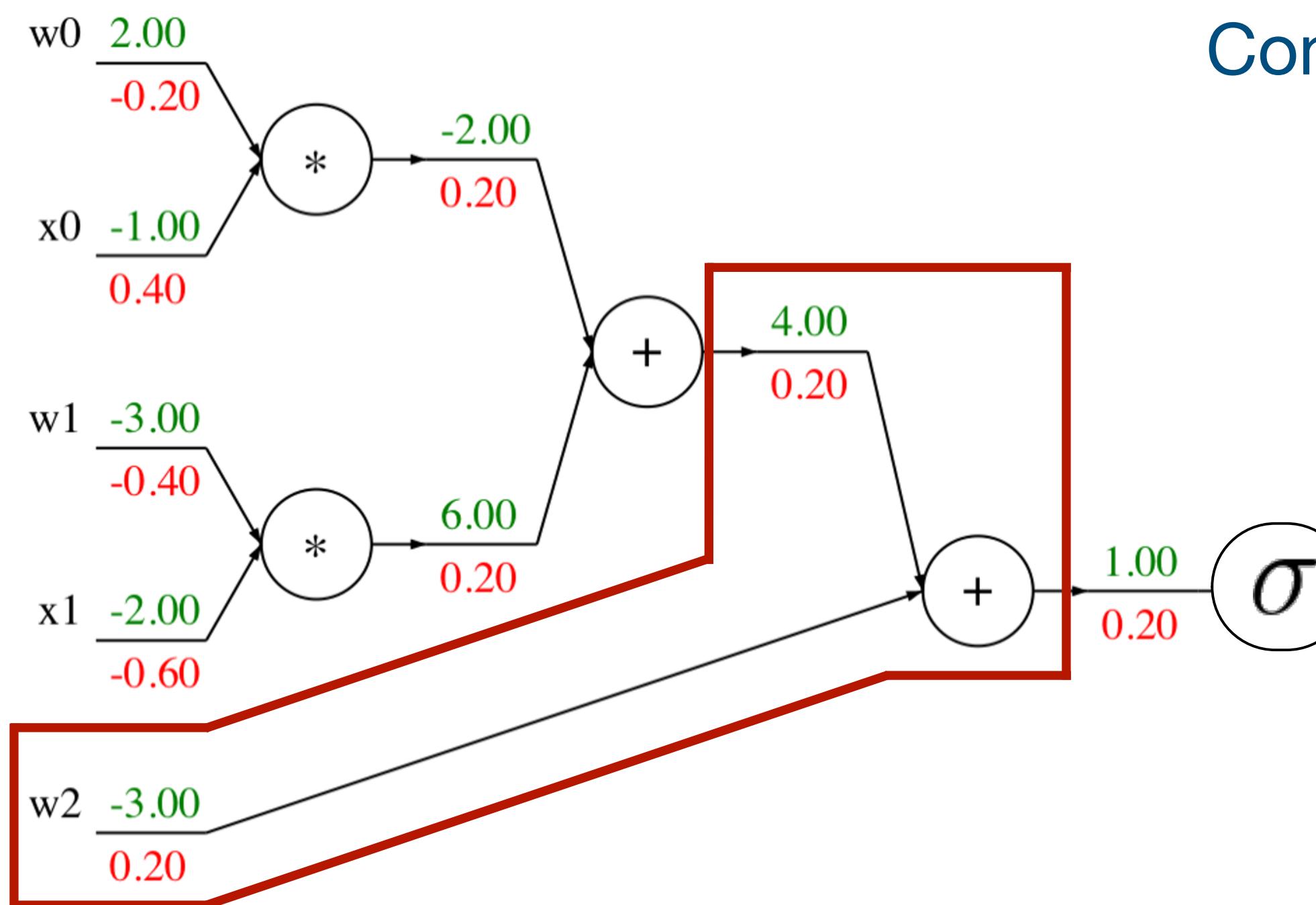
Sigmoid

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

grad_L = 1.0
grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
grad_w2 = grad_s3
grad_s2 = grad_s3
grad_s0 = grad_s2
grad_s1 = grad_s2
grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

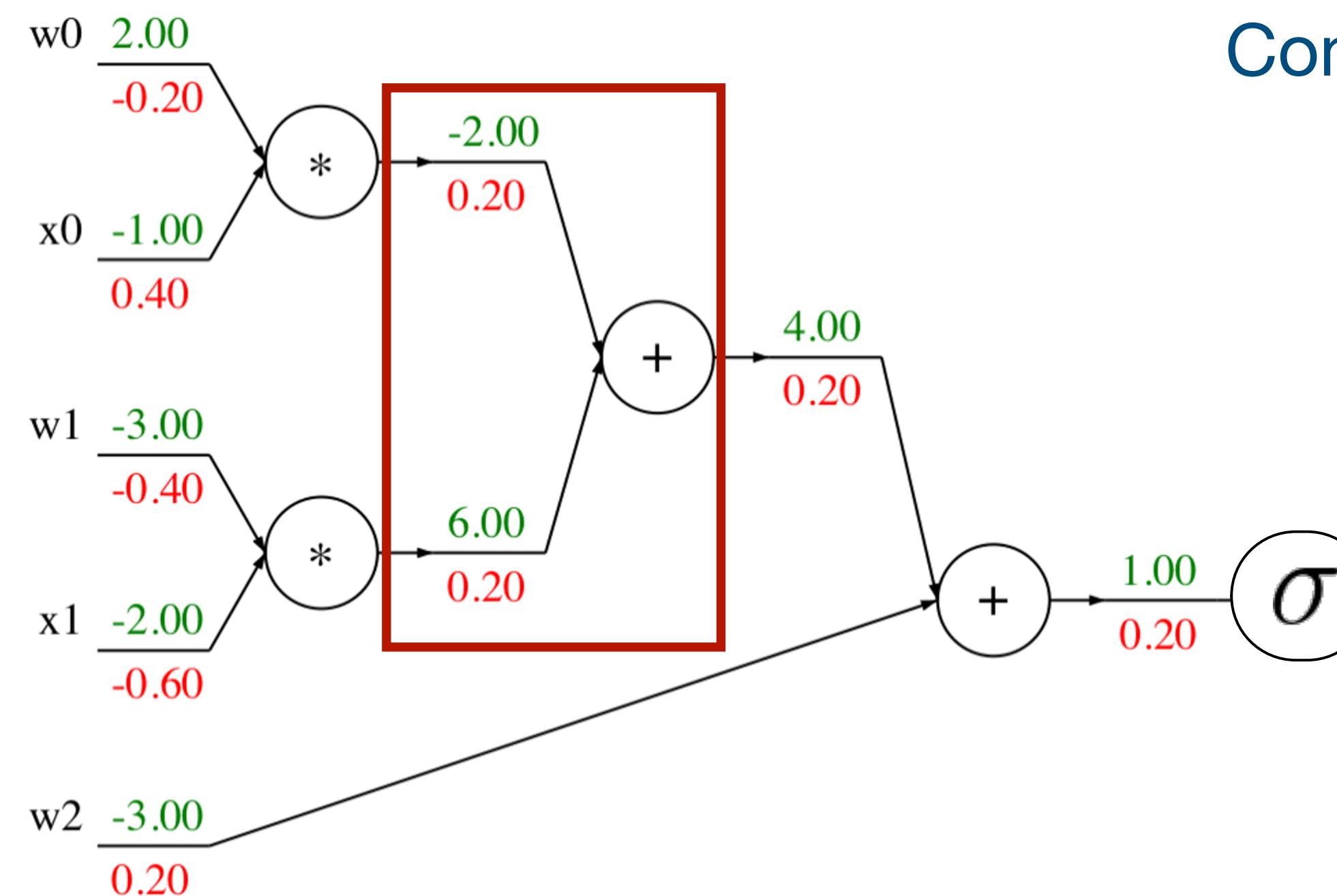
```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)
```

Add

```
grad_L = 1.0
grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
grad_w2 = grad_s3
grad_s2 = grad_s3
grad_s0 = grad_s2
grad_s1 = grad_s2
grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

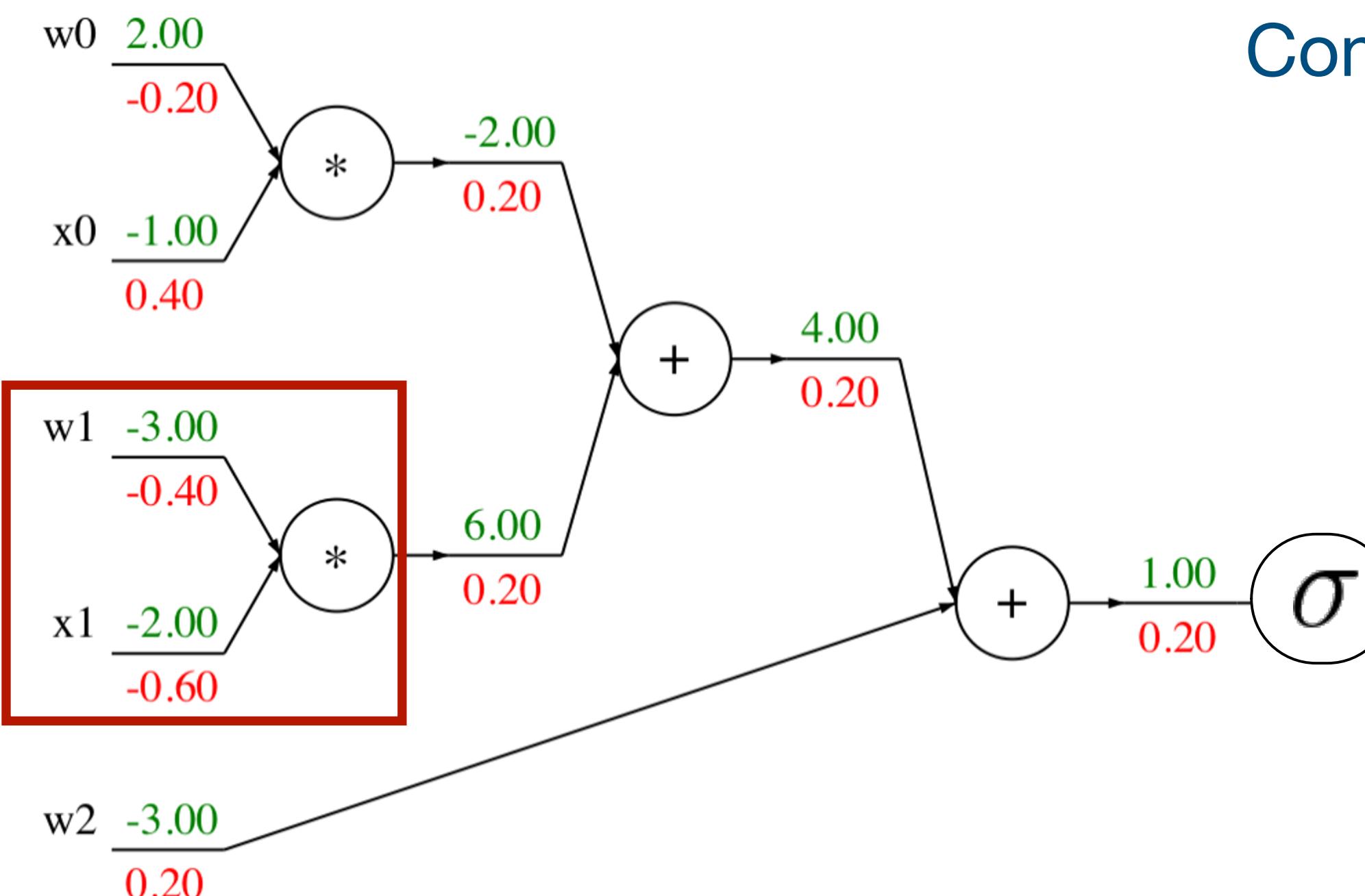
Add

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

    grad_L = 1.0
    grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
    grad_w2 = grad_s3
    grad_s2 = grad_s3
    grad_s0 = grad_s2
    grad_s1 = grad_s2
    grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
    grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
    grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
    grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

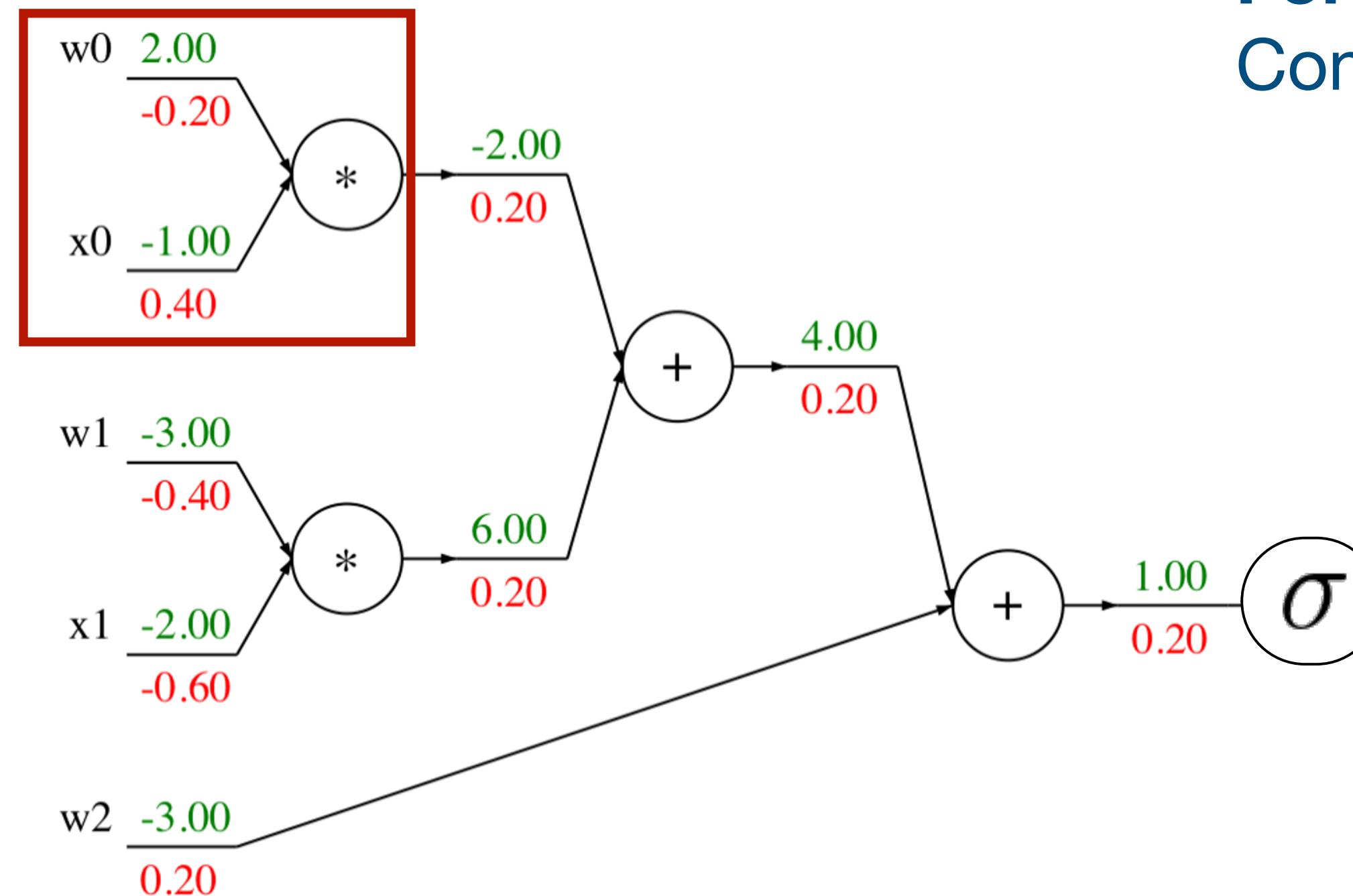
Multiply

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

    grad_L = 1.0
    grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
    grad_w2 = grad_s3
    grad_s2 = grad_s3
    grad_s0 = grad_s2
    grad_s1 = grad_s2
    grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
    grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
    grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
    grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

# Backprop Implementation: “Flat” gradient code



**Forward pass:**  
Compute outputs

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

    grad_L = 1.0
    grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
    grad_w2 = grad_s3
    grad_s2 = grad_s3
    grad_s0 = grad_s2
    grad_s1 = grad_s2
    grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
    grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
    grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
    grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

Multiply

**Backward pass:**  
Compute gradients

# “Flat” Backprop: Do this for Project 1 & 2

## Forward pass: Compute outputs

```
#####
# TODO:                                     #
# Implement a vectorized version of the structured SVM loss, storing the   #
# result in loss.                         #
#####
# Replace "pass" statement with your code
num_classes = W.shape[1]
num_train = X.shape[0]
score = # ...
correct_class_score = # ...
margin = # ...
data_loss = # ...
reg_loss = # ...
loss += data_loss + reg_loss
#####
#                                         END OF YOUR CODE
#####
#
```

## Backward pass: Compute gradients

```
#####
# TODO:                                     #
# Implement a vectorized version of the gradient for the structured SVM    #
# loss, storing the result in dW.                                         #
#
# Hint: Instead of computing the gradient from scratch, it may be easier   #
# to reuse some of the intermediate values that you used to compute the    #
# loss.
#####
# Replace "pass" statement with your code
dmargins = # ...
dscores = # ...
dW = # ...
#####
#                                         END OF YOUR CODE
#####
#
```



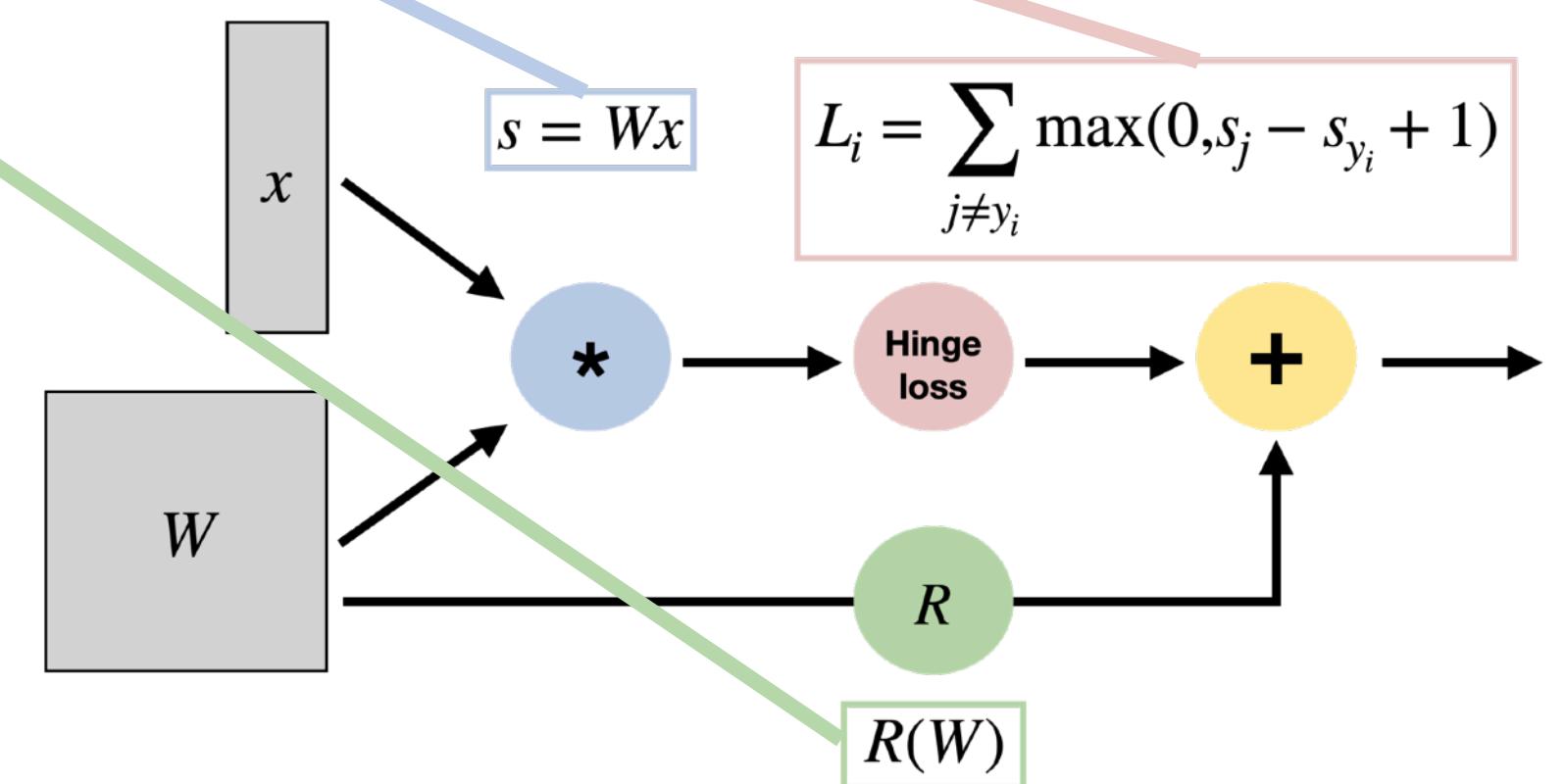
# “Flat” Backprop: Do this for Project 1 & 2

## Forward pass: Compute outputs

```
#####
# TODO: #
# Implement a vectorized version of the structured SVM loss, storing the #
# result in loss. #
#####
# Replace "pass" statement with your code
num_classes = W.shape[1]
num_train = X.shape[0]
score = # ...
correct_class_score = # ...
margin = # ...
data_loss = # ...
reg_loss = # ...
loss += data_loss + reg_loss
#####
# END OF YOUR CODE
#####
#
```

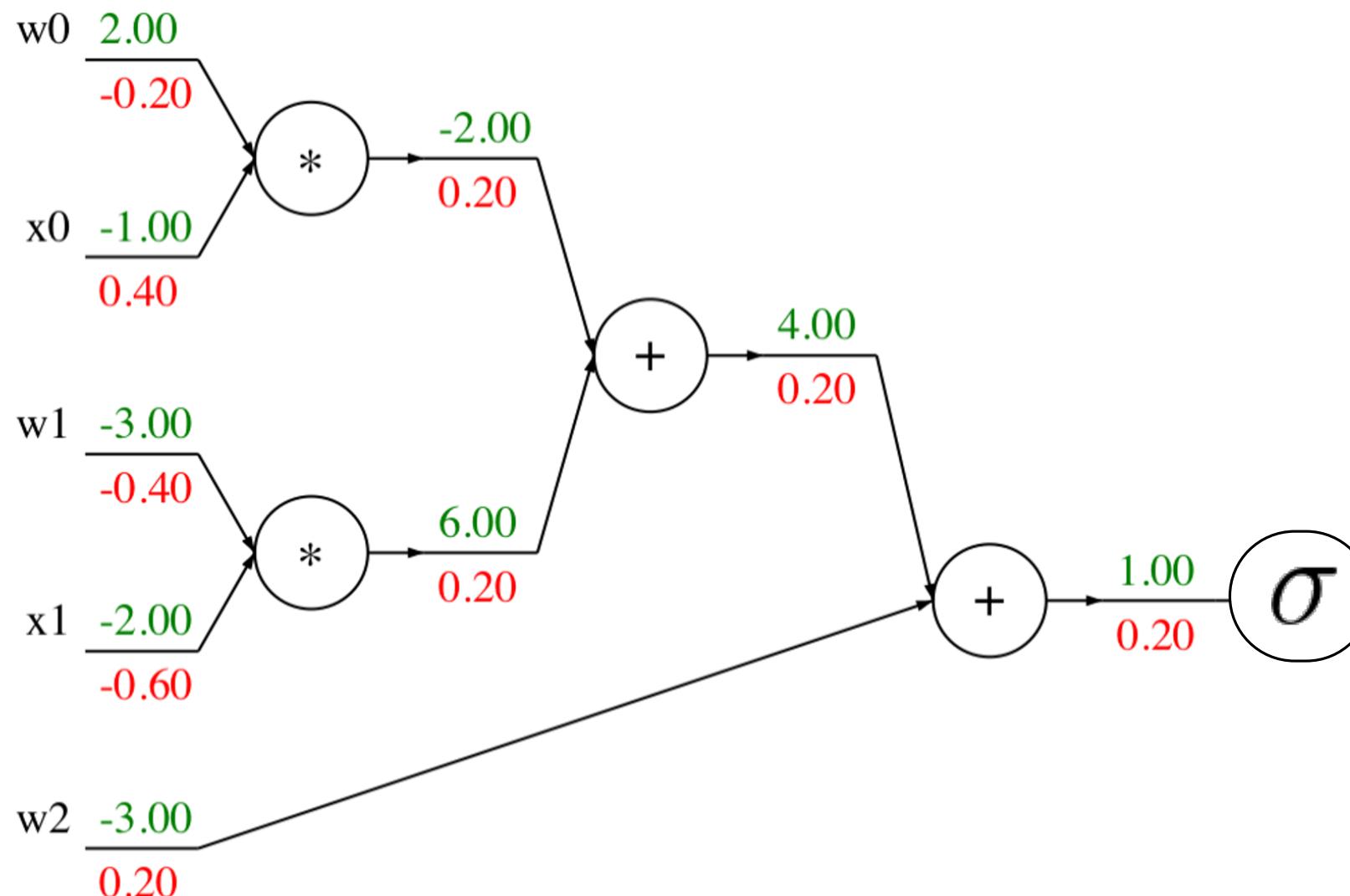
## Backward pass: Compute gradients

```
#####
# TODO: #
# Implement a vectorized version of the gradient for the structured SVM #
# loss, storing the result in dW. #
#
# Hint: Instead of computing the gradient from scratch, it may be easier #
# to reuse some of the intermediate values that you used to compute the #
# loss.
#####
# Replace "pass" statement with your code
dmargins = # ...
dscores = # ...
dW = # ...
#####
# END OF YOUR CODE
#####
#
```



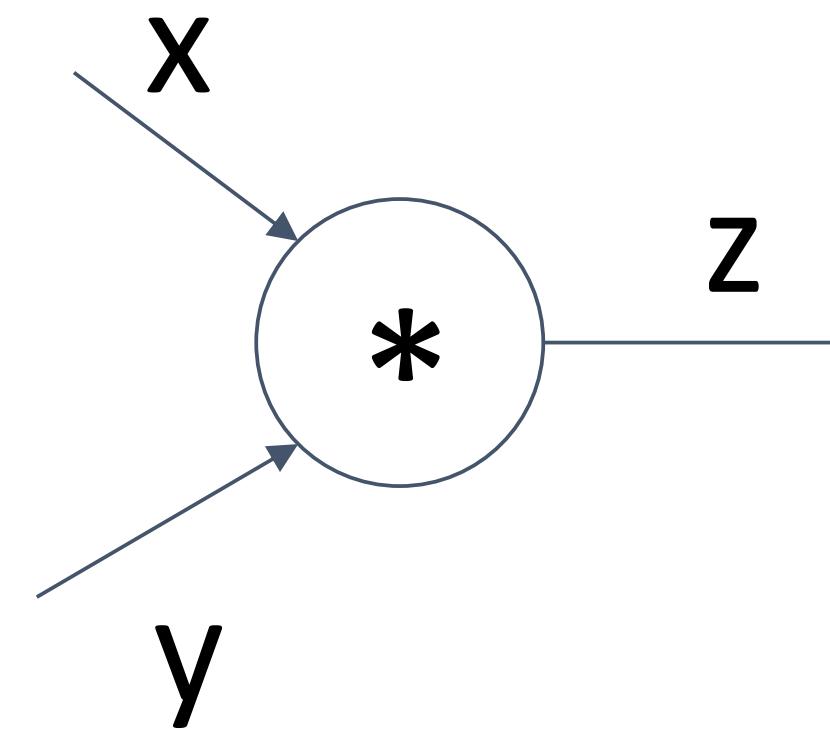
# Backprop Implementation: Modular API

Graph (or Net) object (*rough pseudo code*)



```
class ComputationalGraph(object):
    ...
    def forward(inputs):
        # 1. [pass inputs to input gates...]
        # 2. forward the computational graph:
        for gate in self.graph.nodes_topologically_sorted():
            gate.forward()
        return loss # the final gate in the graph outputs the loss
    def backward():
        for gate in reversed(self.graph.nodes_topologically_sorted()):
            gate.backward() # little piece of backprop (chain rule applied)
        return inputs_gradients
```

# Example: PyTorch Autograd Functions



( $x, y, z$  are scalars)

```
class Multiply(torch.autograd.Function):
    @staticmethod
    def forward(ctx, x, y):
        ctx.save_for_backward(x, y)
        z = x * y
        return z

    @staticmethod
    def backward(ctx, grad_z):
        x, y = ctx.saved_tensors
        grad_x = y * grad_z #  $dz/dx * dL/dz$ 
        grad_y = x * grad_z #  $dz/dy * dL/dz$ 
        return grad_x, grad_y
```

Need to stash some values for use in backward

Upstream gradient

Multiply upstream and local gradients

So far: backprop with scalars

What about vector-valued functions?

# Recap: Vector Derivatives

---

$$x \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

Regular derivative:

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \in \mathbb{R}$$

If  $x$  changes by a small amount, how much will  $y$  change?

# Recap: Vector Derivatives

---

$$x \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

Regular derivative:

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \in \mathbb{R}$$

If  $x$  changes by a small amount, how much will  $y$  change?

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^N, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

Derivative is **Gradient**:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} &\in \mathbb{R}^N, \\ \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)_i &= \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}\end{aligned}$$

For each element of  $x$ , if it changes by a small amount then how much will  $y$  change?



# Recap: Vector Derivatives

---

$$x \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

Regular derivative:

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \in \mathbb{R}$$

If  $x$  changes by a small amount, how much will  $y$  change?

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^N, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

Derivative is **Gradient**:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} &\in \mathbb{R}^N, \\ \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)_i &= \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}\end{aligned}$$

For each element of  $x$ , if it changes by a small amount then how much will  $y$  change?

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^N, y \in \mathbb{R}^M$$

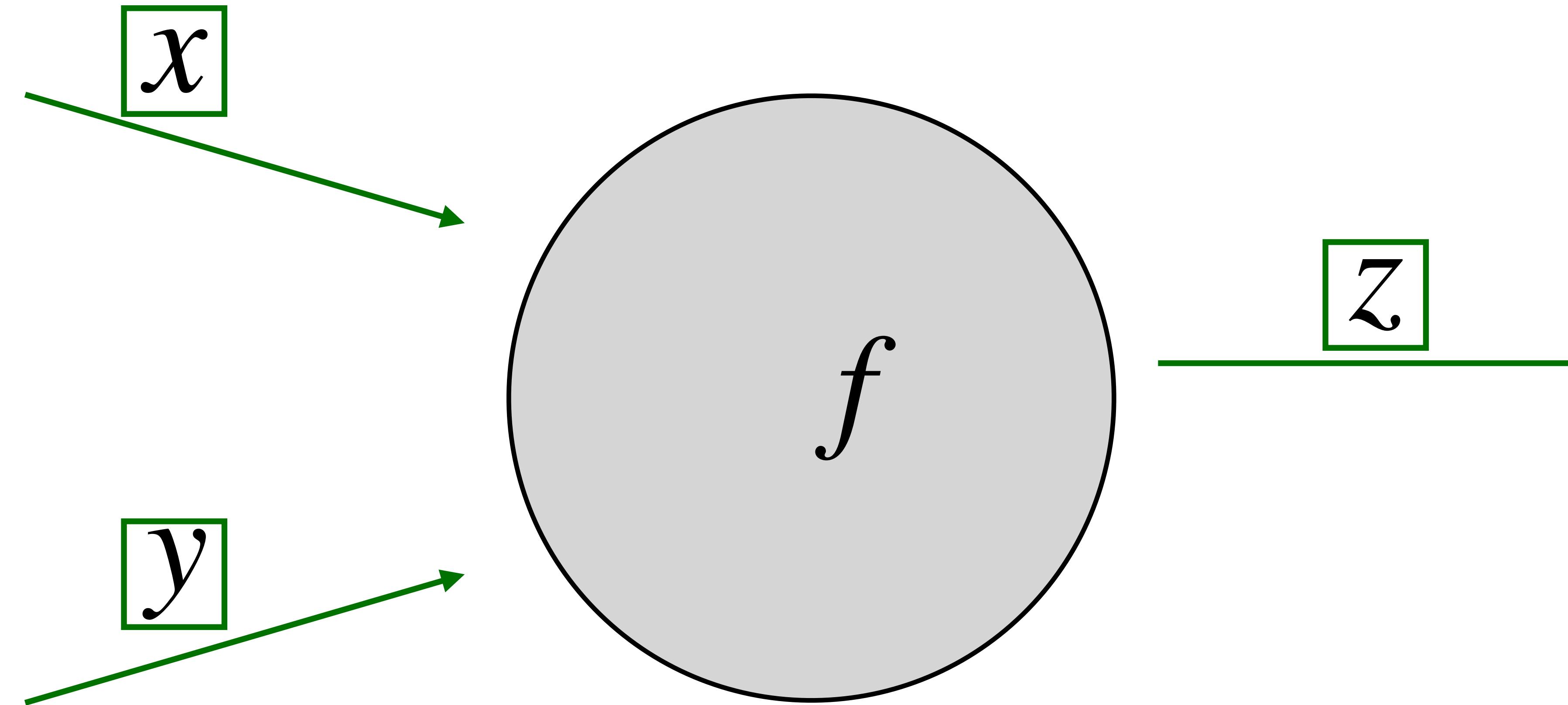
Derivative is **Jacobian**:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} &\in \mathbb{R}^{N \times M} \\ \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)_{i,j} &= \frac{\partial y_j}{\partial x_i}\end{aligned}$$

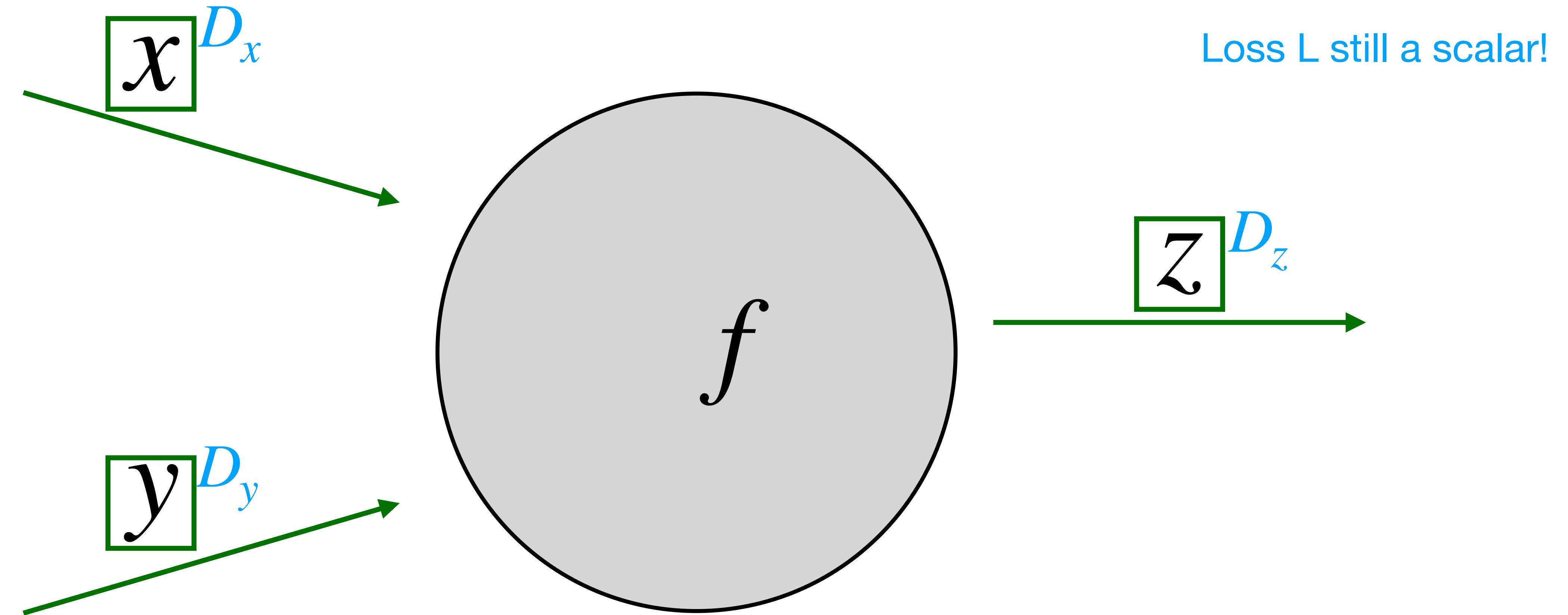
For each element of  $x$ , if it changes by a small amount then how much will each element of  $y$  change?



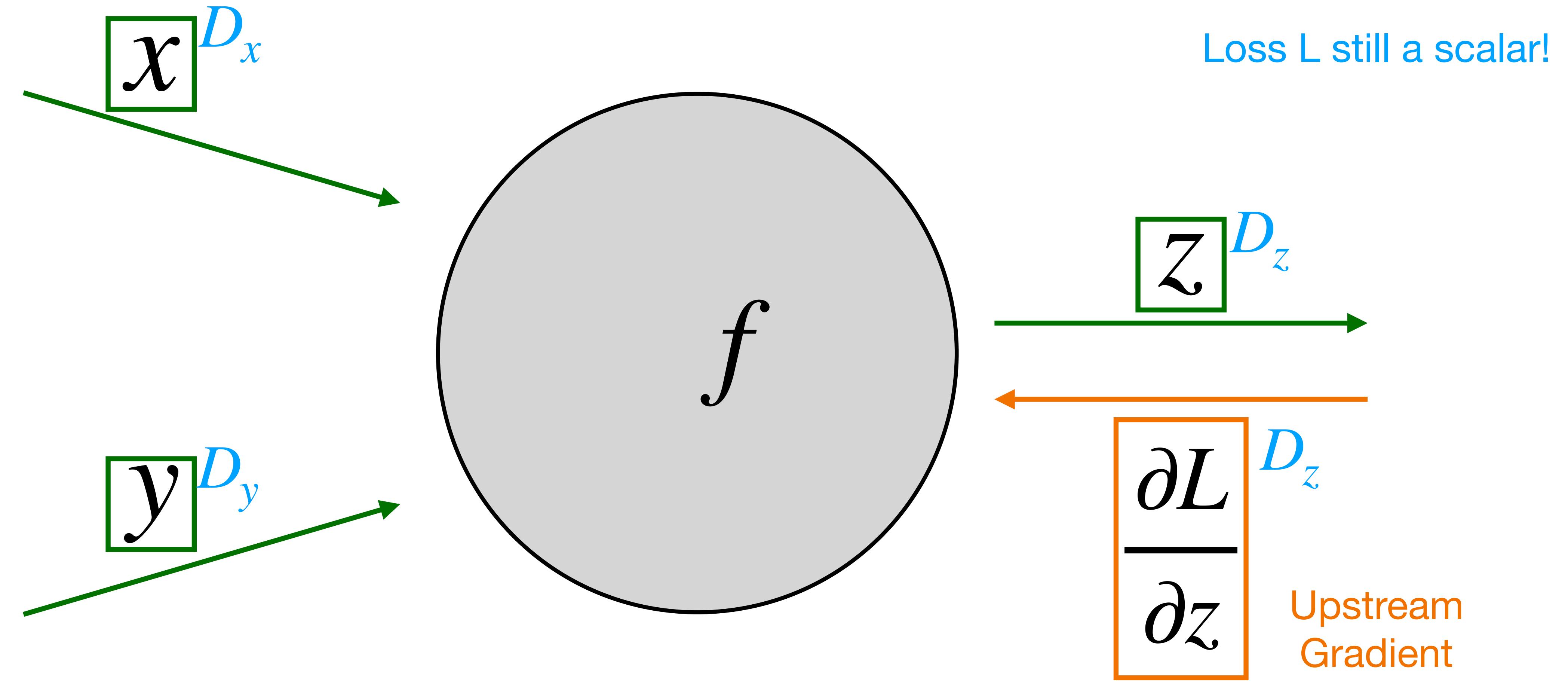
# Backprop with Vectors



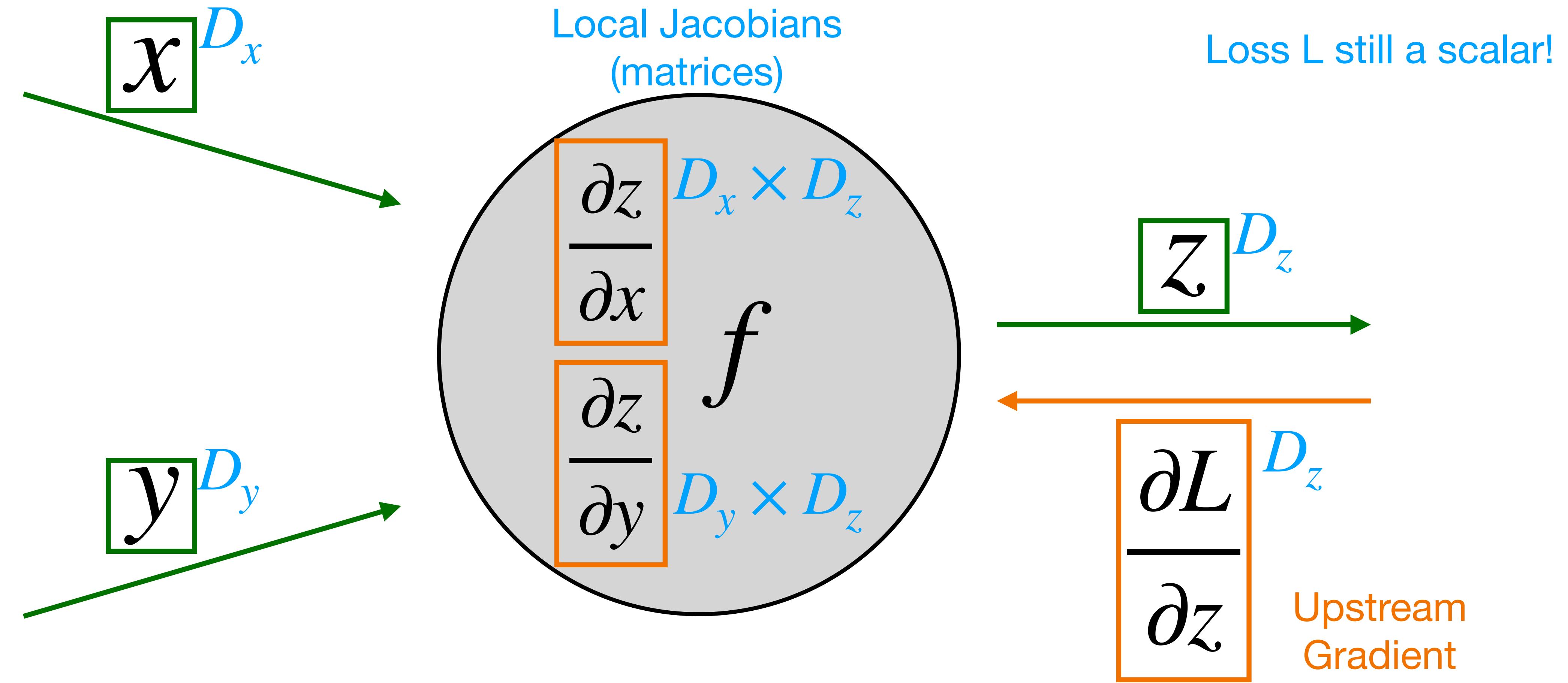
# Backprop with Vectors



# Backprop with Vectors

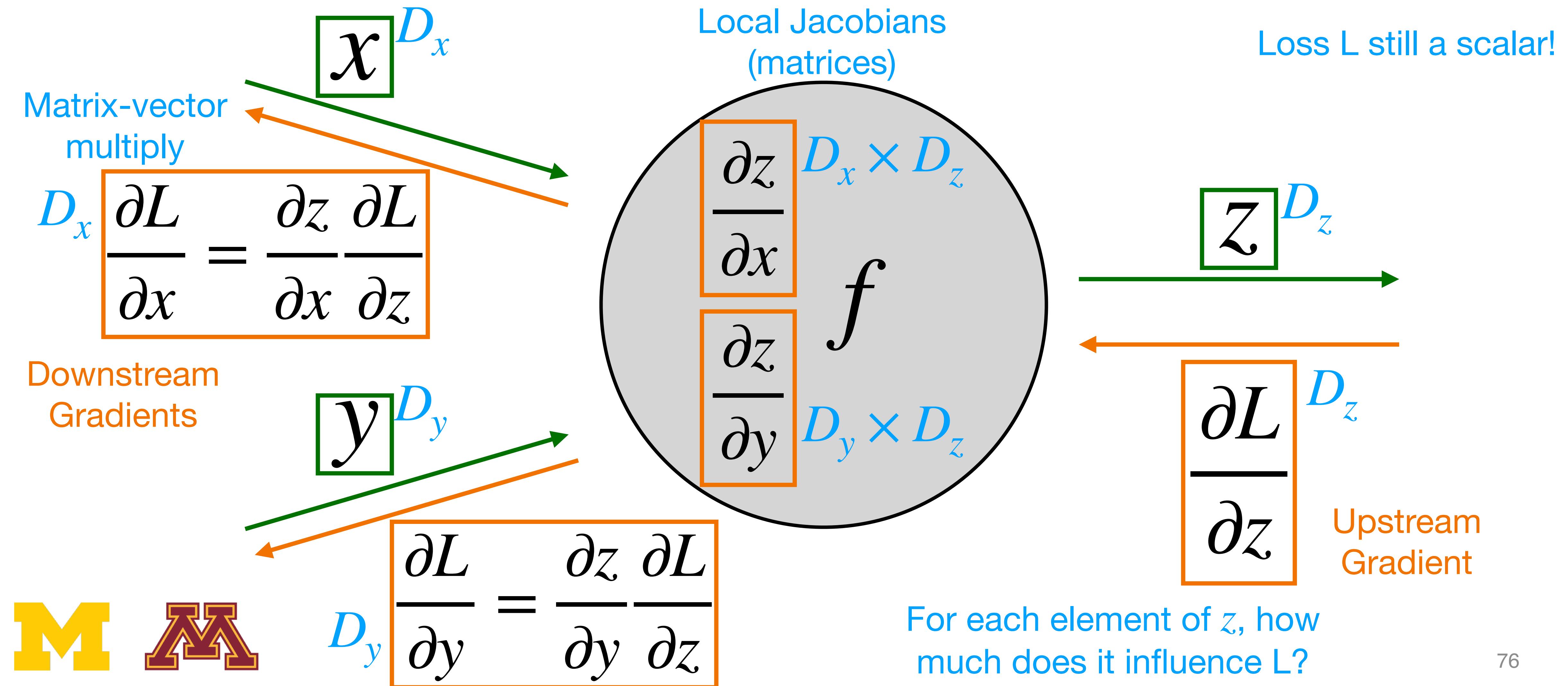


# Backprop with Vectors



For each element of  $z$ , how  
much does it influence  $L$ ?

# Backprop with Vectors



# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow$$

$$f(x) = \max(0, x)$$

*(elementwise)*

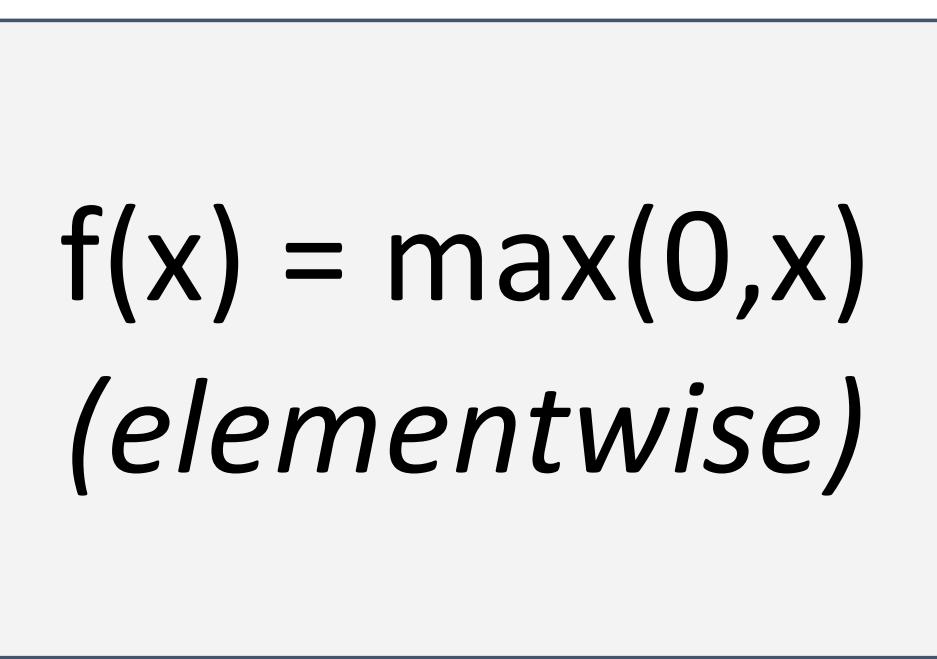
4D output y:

$$\begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow [1] \\ \longrightarrow [0] \\ \longrightarrow [3] \\ \longrightarrow [0] \end{array}$$

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow$$



4D output y:

$$\longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

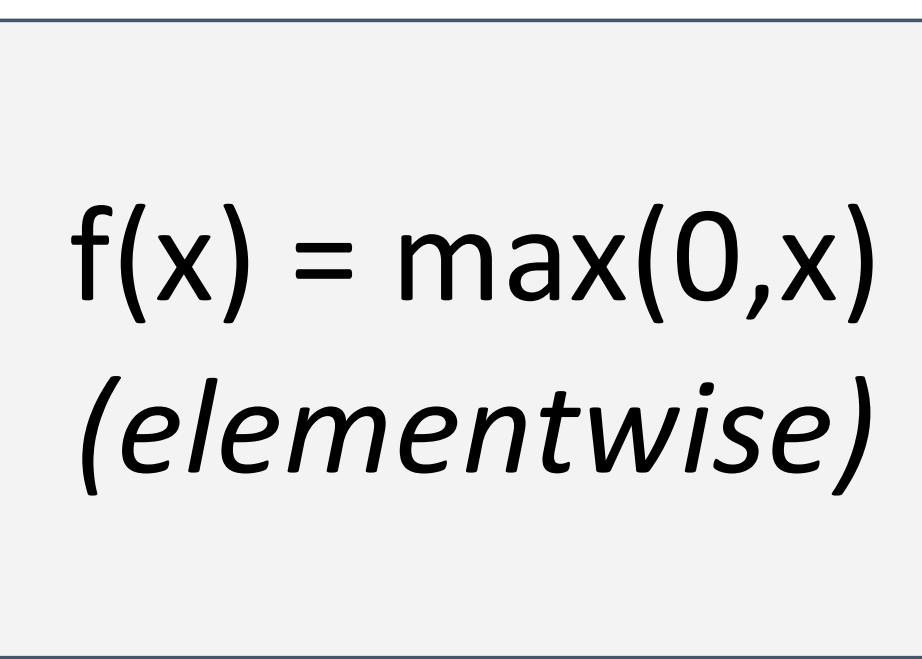
$$\begin{array}{c} \longleftarrow [ 4 ] \longrightarrow \\ \longleftarrow [ -1 ] \longrightarrow \\ \longleftarrow [ 5 ] \longrightarrow \\ \longleftarrow [ 9 ] \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

Upstream  
gradient

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow$$



4D output y:

$$\longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$[dy/dx] [dL/dy]$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

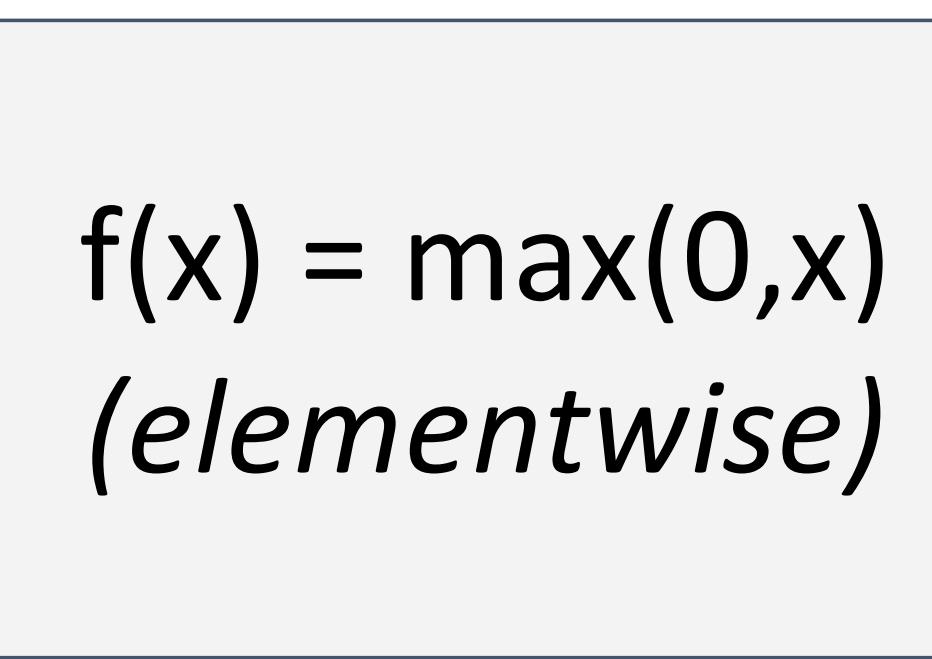
$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

Upstream  
gradient

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow$$



4D output y:

$$\longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

4D  $dL/dx$ :

$[ 4 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 ]$	$[ 4 ]$
$[ 0 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 ]$	$[ -1 ]$
$[ 5 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 ]$	$[ 5 ]$
$[ 0 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 ]$	$[ 9 ]$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

$[ 4 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 4 ]$
$[ -1 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ -1 ]$
$[ 5 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 5 ]$
$[ 9 ]$	$\longleftarrow$	$[ 9 ]$

Upstream  
gradient

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}}$$

$$f(x) = \max(0, x) \\ (\textit{elementwise})$$

4D output y:

$$\xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Jacobian is **sparse**: off-diagonal entries all zero!  
Never **explicitly** form Jacobian; instead use **implicit** multiplication

4D  $dL/dx$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \begin{bmatrix} dy/dx \\ dL/dy \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \\ \xleftarrow{\text{red arrow}} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Upstream} \\ \text{gradient} \end{array}$$

# Backprop with Vectors

4D input x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(x) = \max(0, x) \\ (\textit{elementwise})$$

4D output y:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Jacobian is **sparse**: off-diagonal entries all zero!  
Never **explicitly** form Jacobian; instead use **implicit** multiplication

4D  $dL/dx$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow$$

$[dy/dx] [dL/dy]$

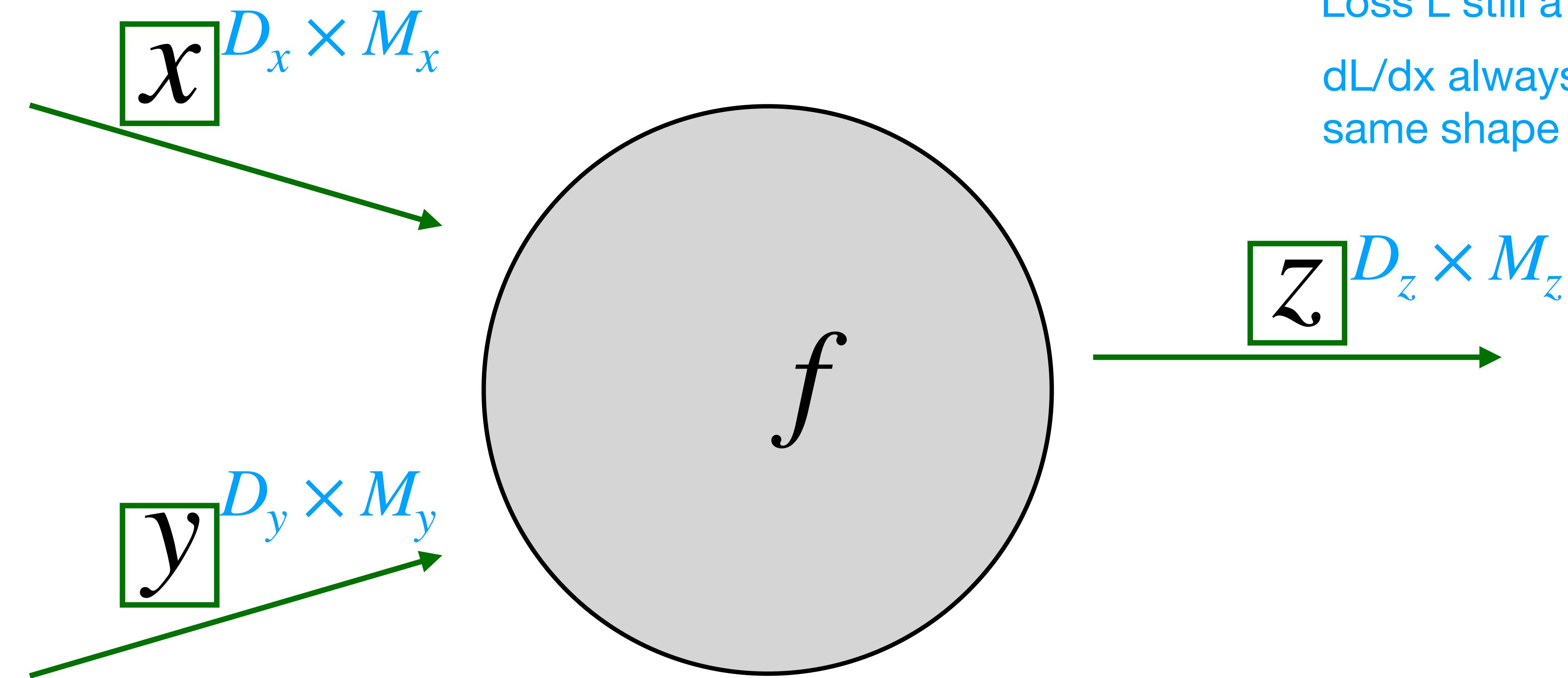
$$\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial x}\right)_i = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial y}\right)_i, & \text{if } x_i > 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

4D  $dL/dy$ :

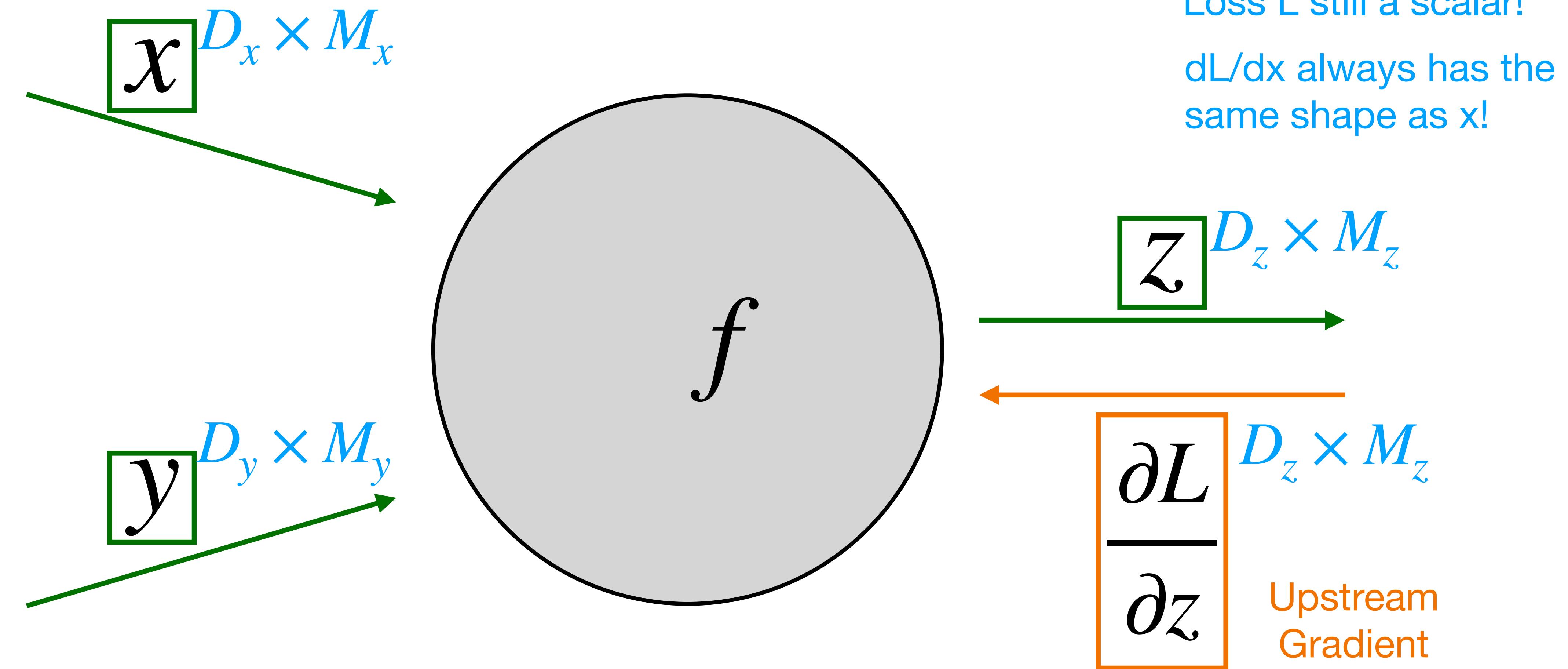
$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow$$

Upstream  
gradient

# Backprop with Matrices (or Tensors)

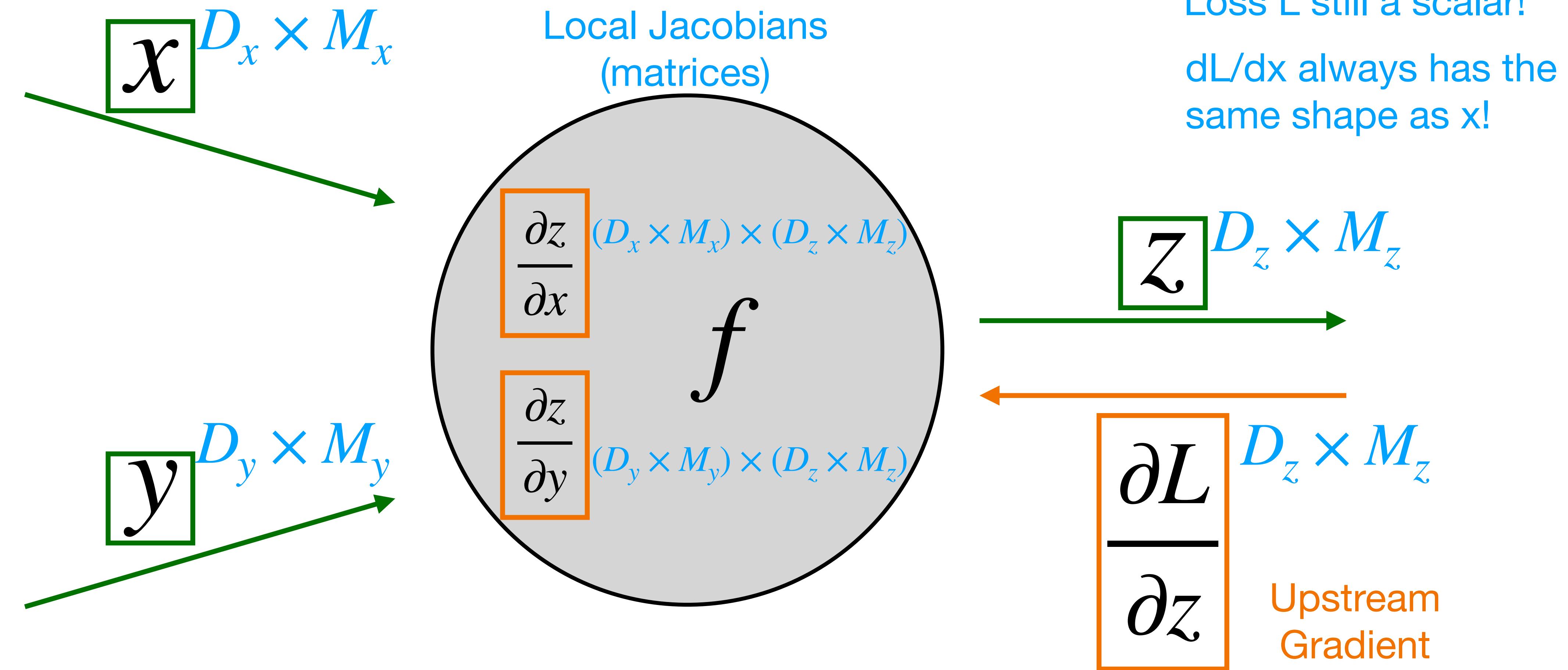


# Backprop with Matrices (or Tensors)

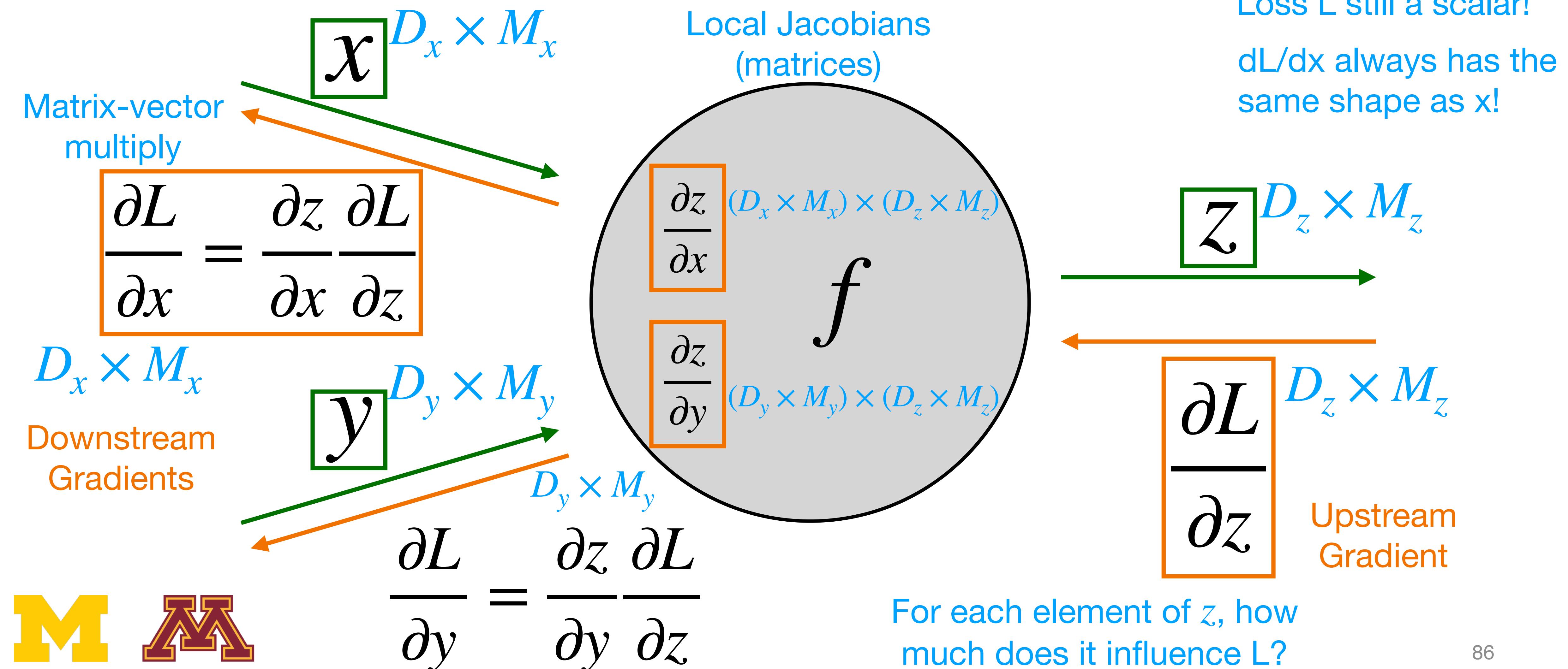


For each element of  $z$ , how much does it influence  $L$ ?

# Backprop with Matrices (or Tensors)



# Backprop with Matrices (or Tensors)



# Example: Matrix Multiplication

$$\begin{array}{l} x: [N \times D] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -3 \\ -3 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} w: [D \times M] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$



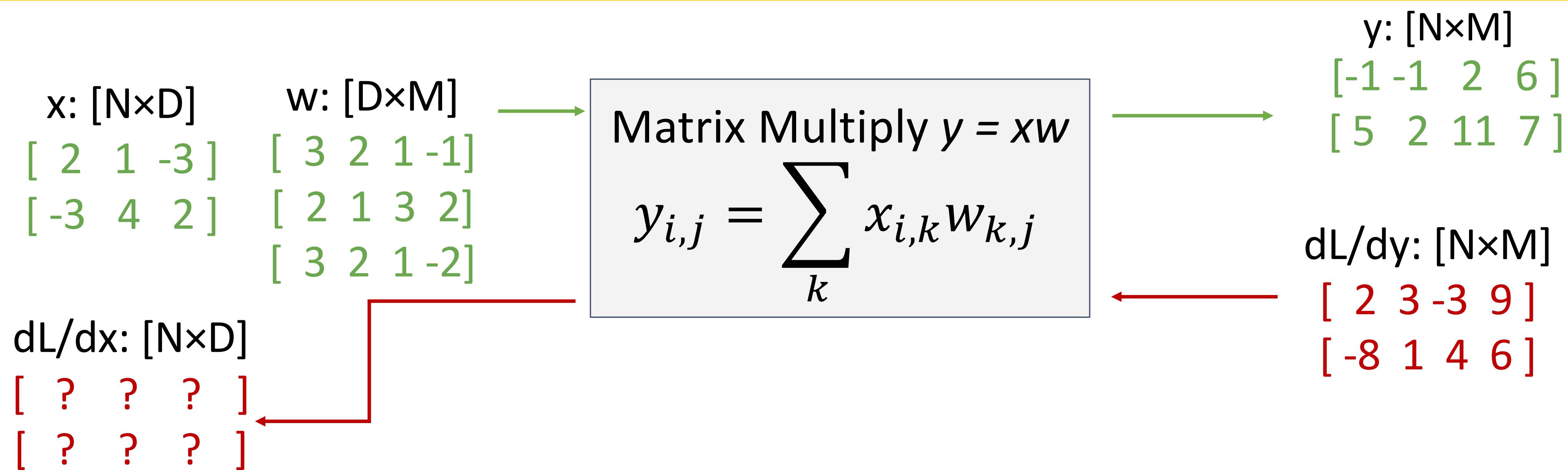
Matrix Multiply  $y = xw$

$$y_{i,j} = \sum_k x_{i,k} w_{k,j}$$

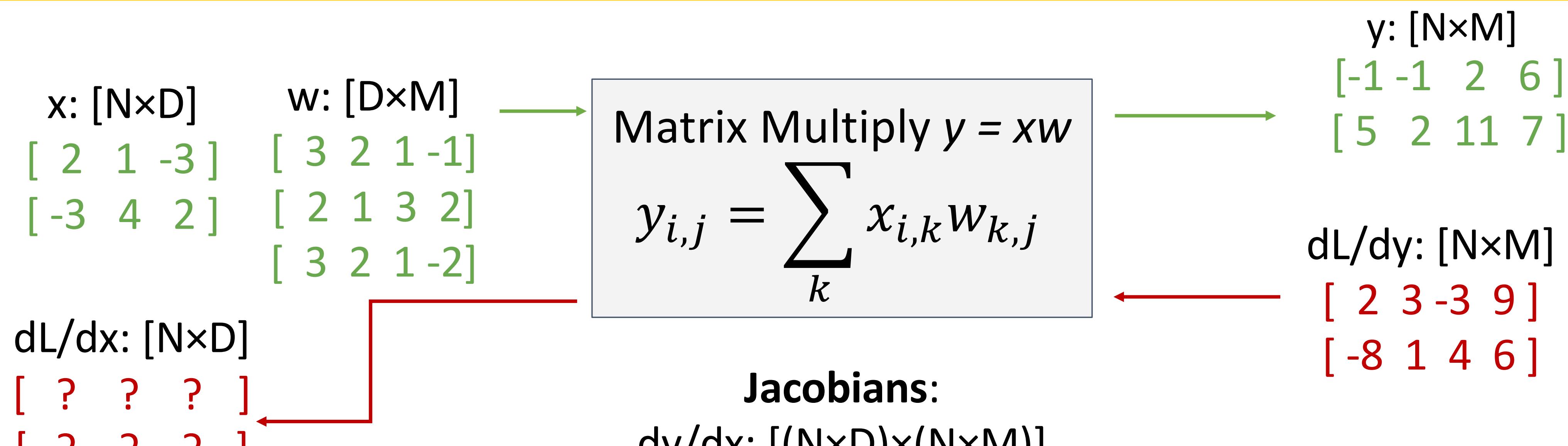


$$\begin{array}{l} y: [N \times M] \\ \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 2 & 11 & 7 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

# Example: Matrix Multiplication



# Example: Matrix Multiplication

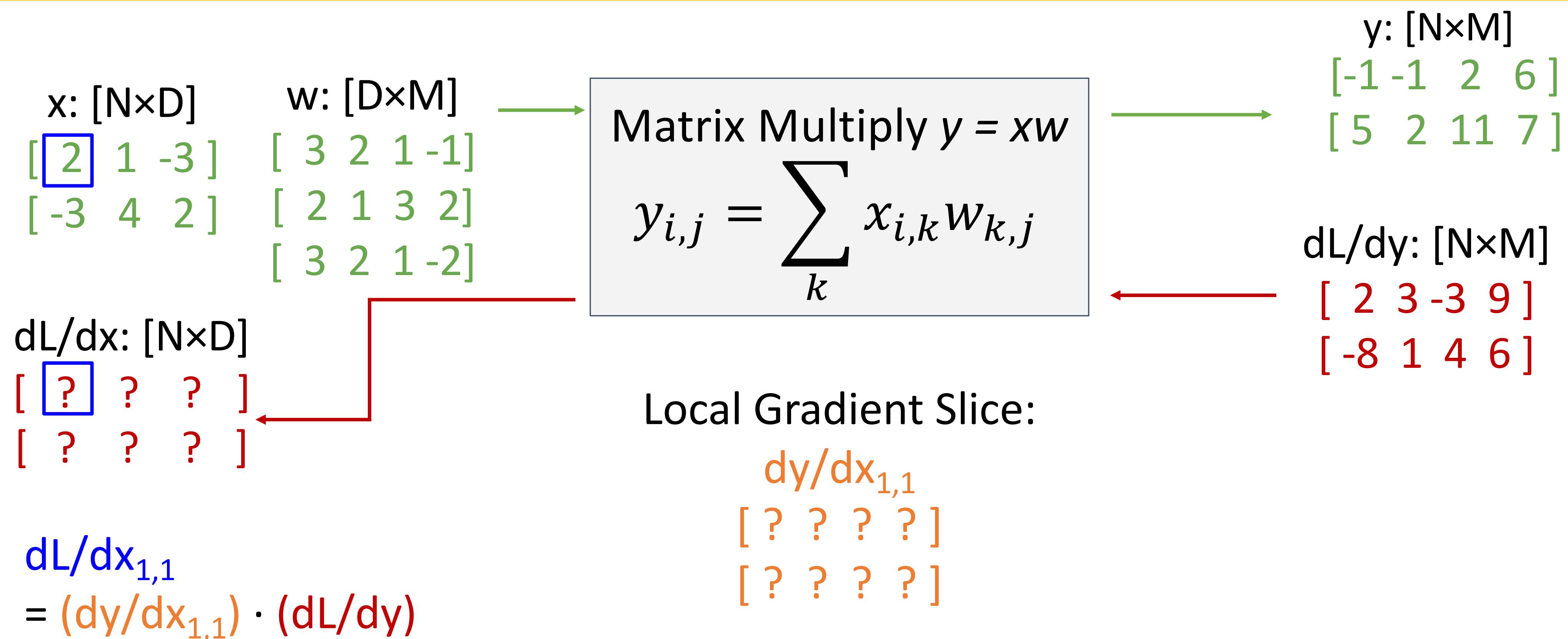


For a neural net we may have

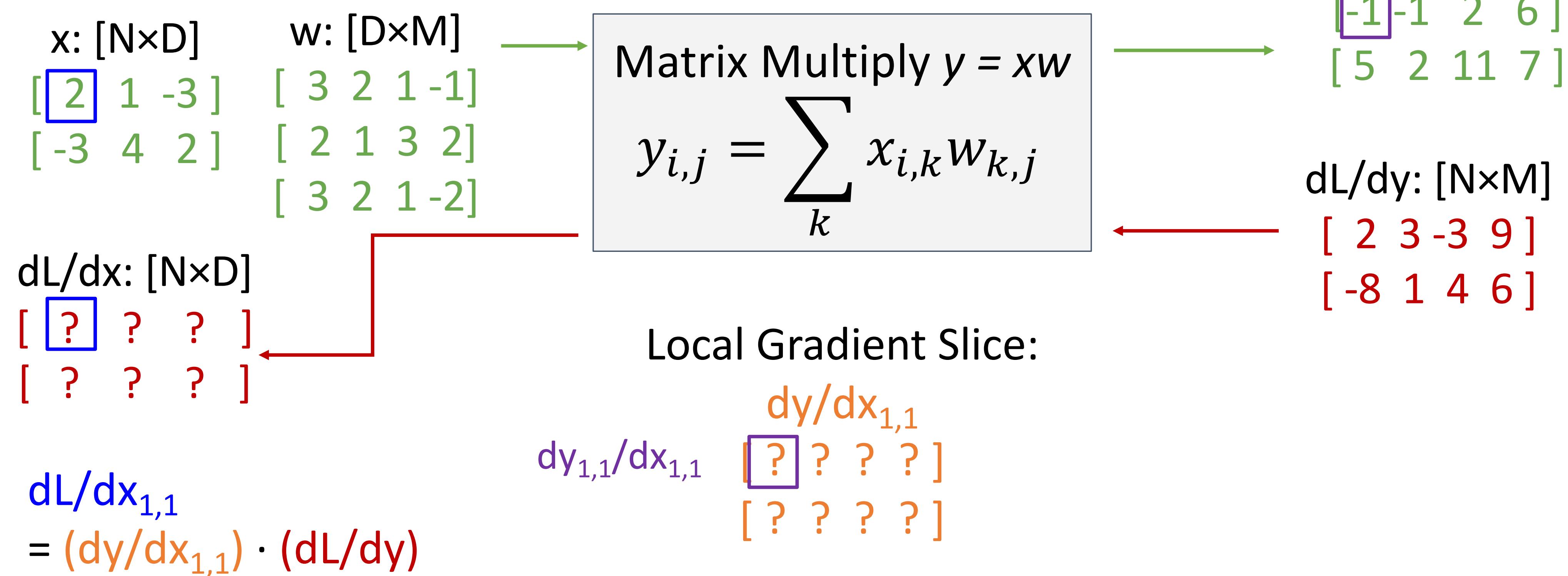
$$N=64, D=M=4096$$

Each Jacobian takes 256 GB of memory! Must work with them implicitly!

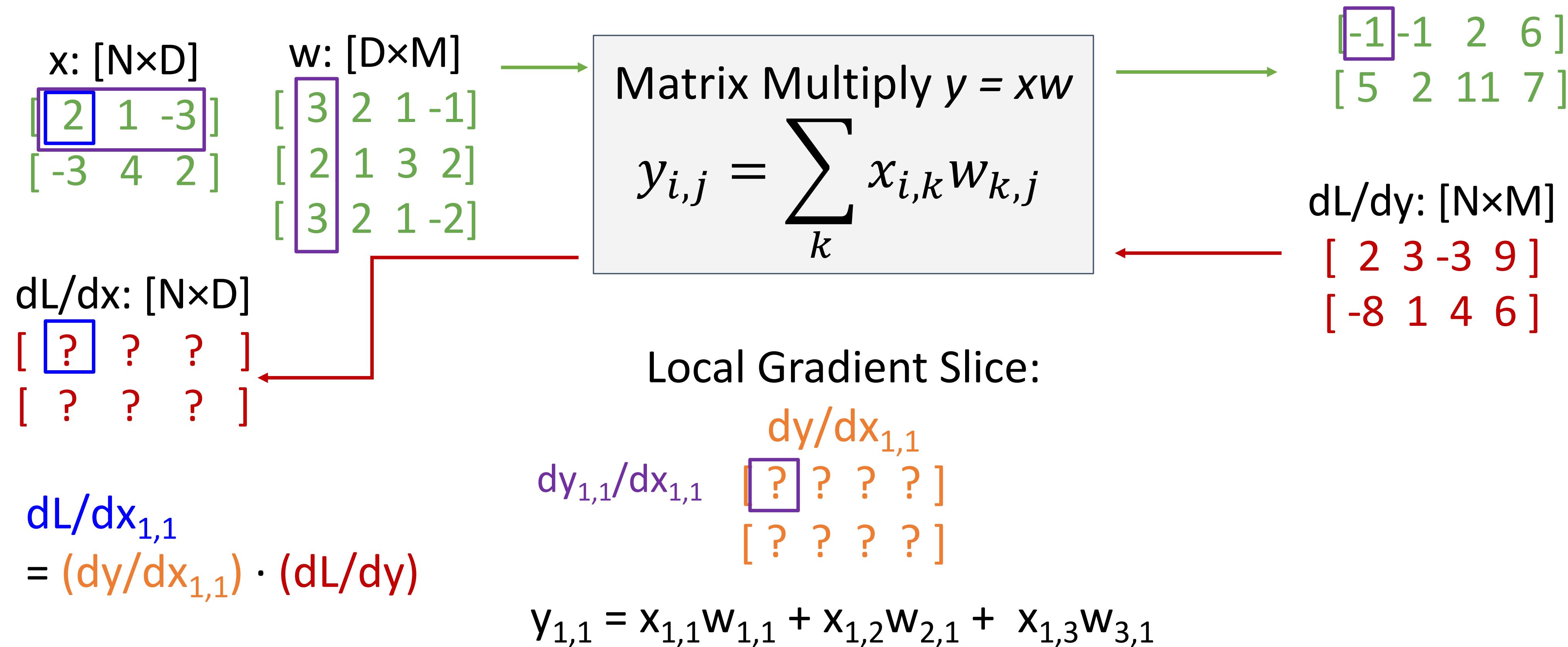
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



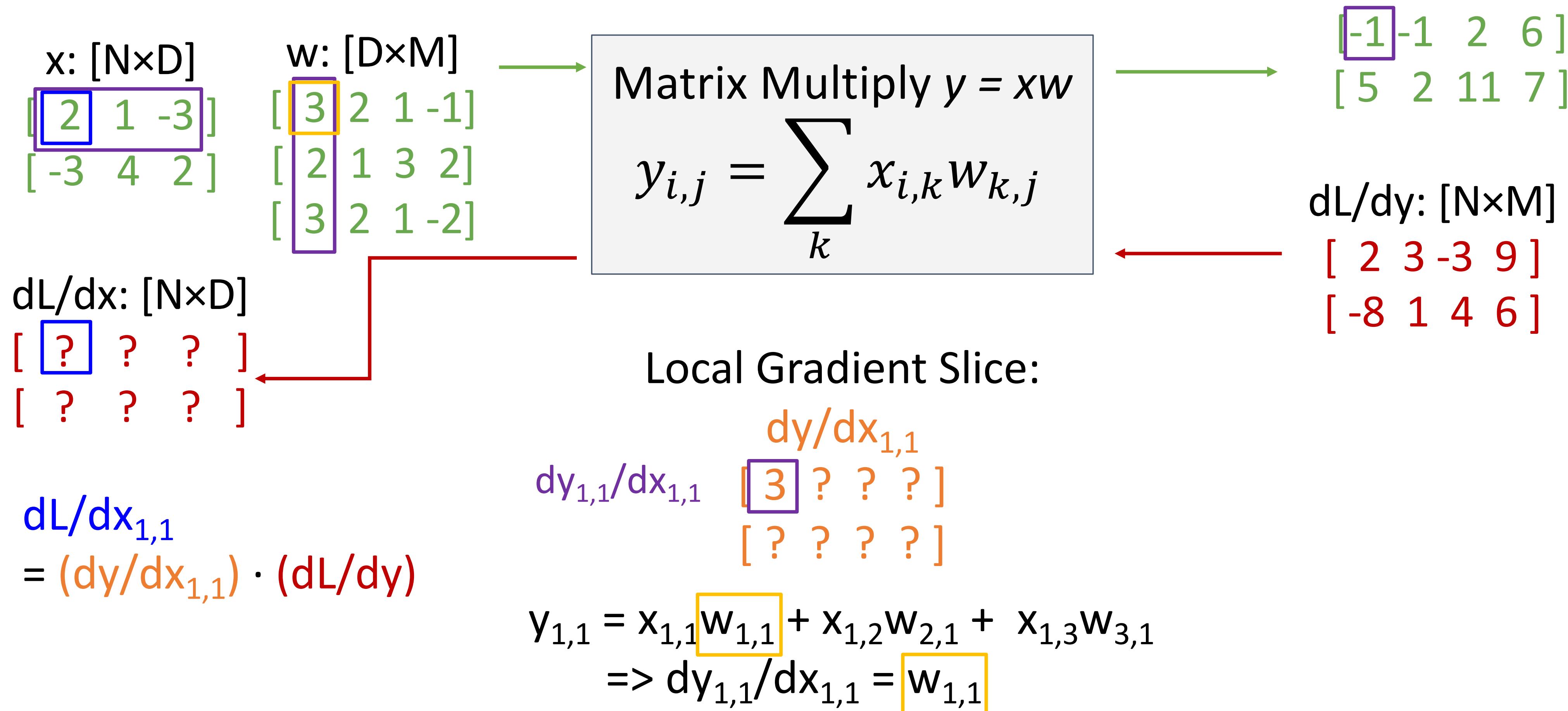
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



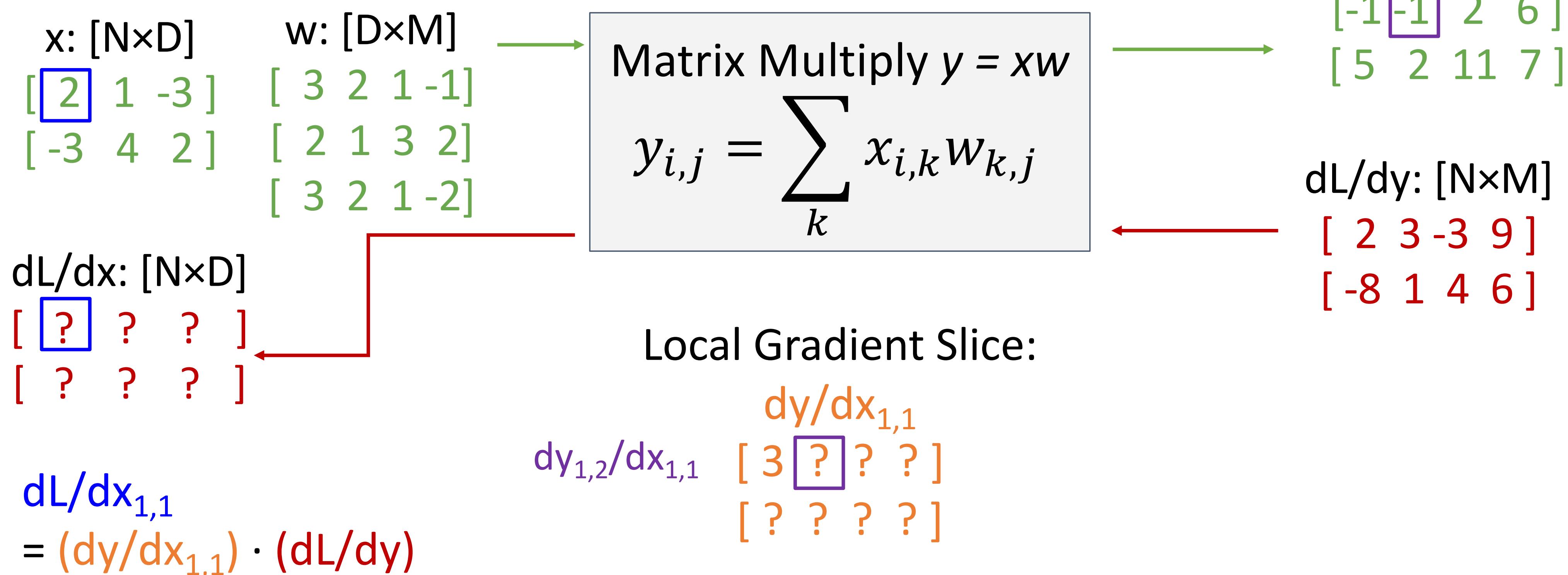
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



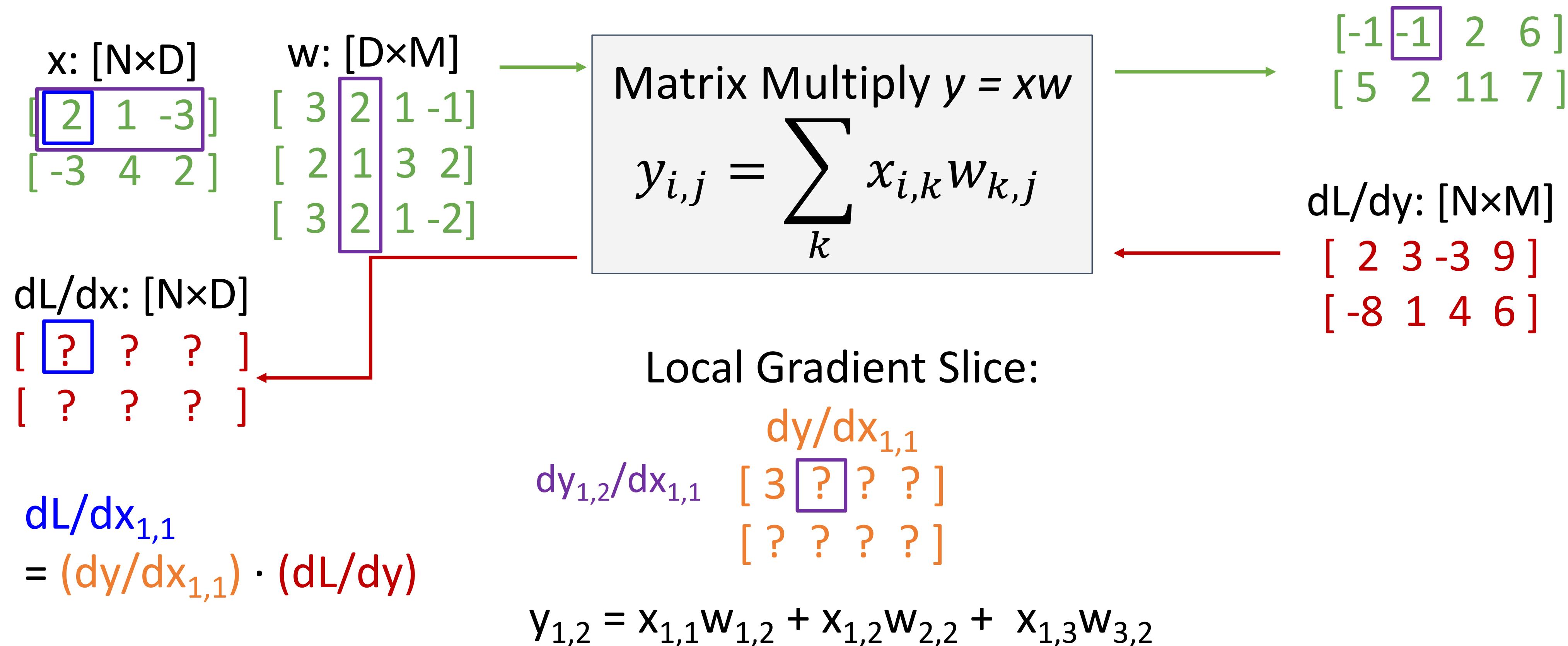
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



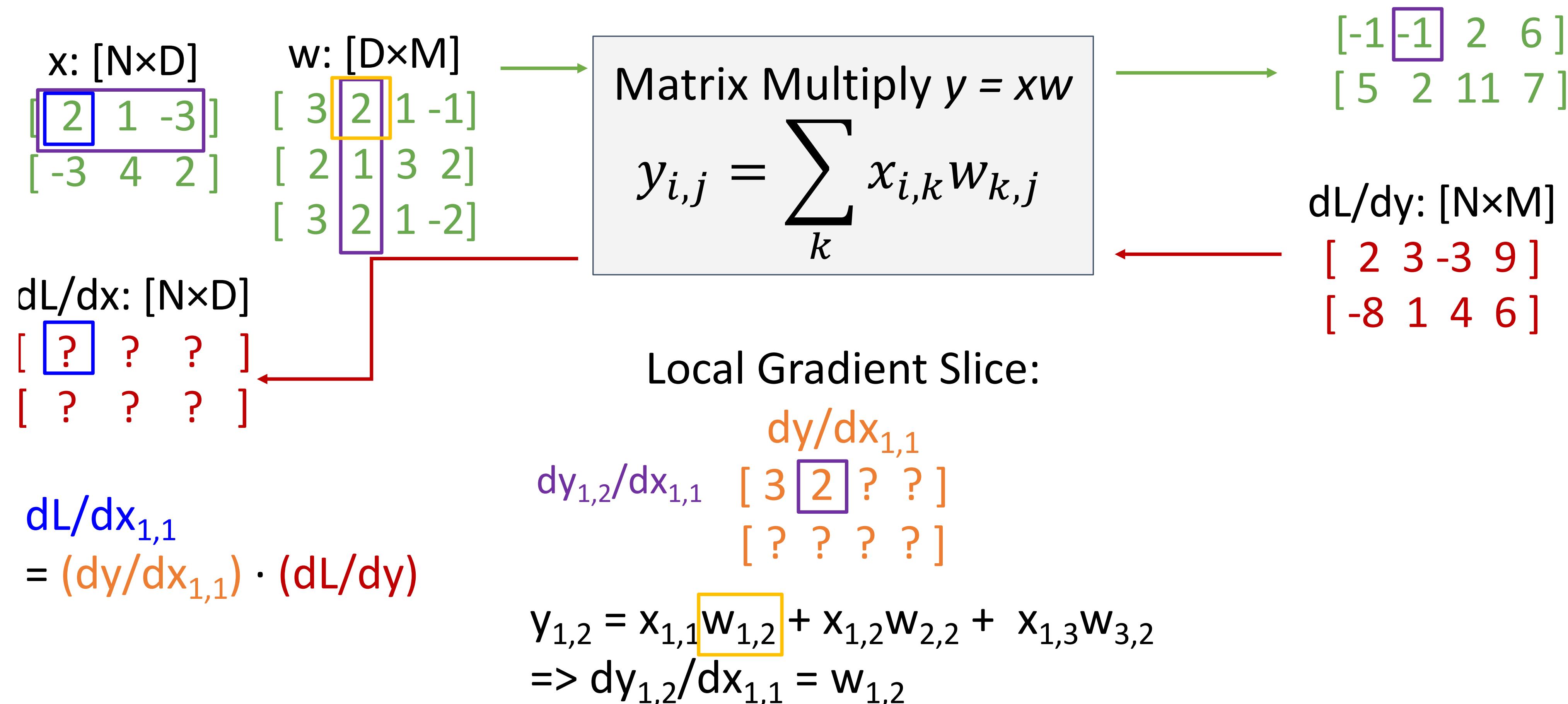
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



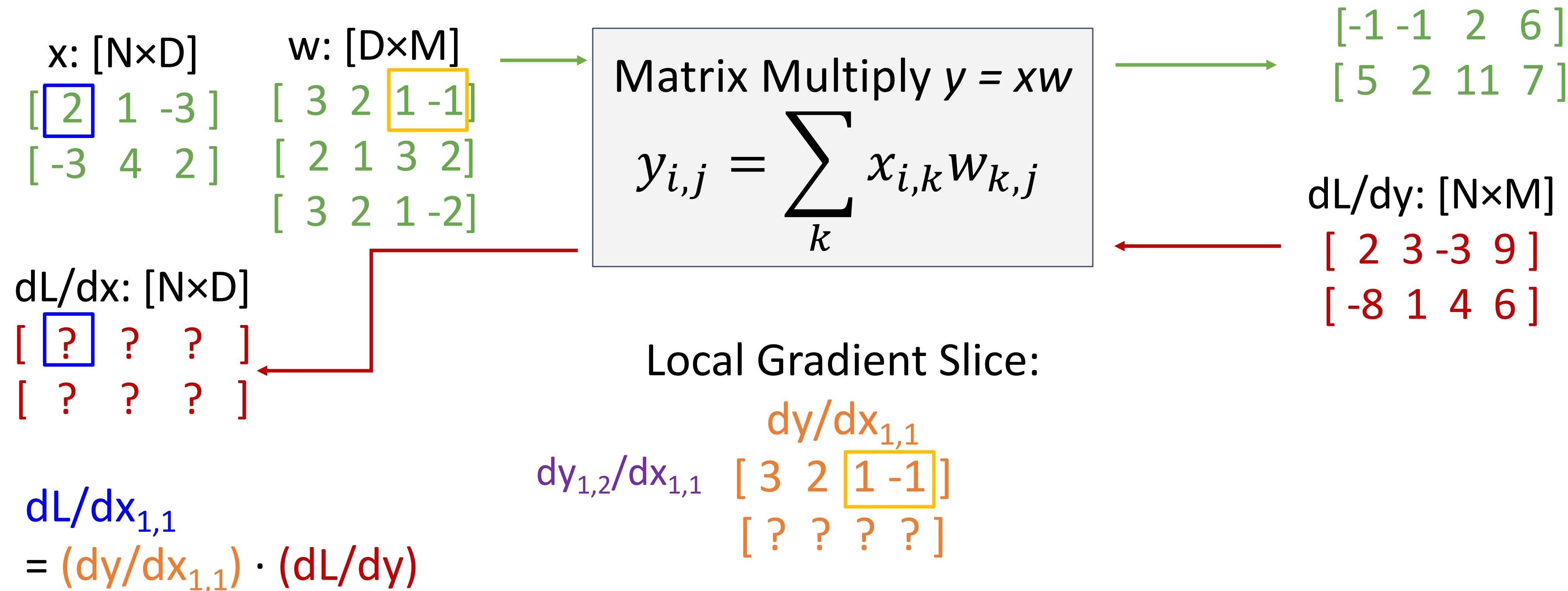
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



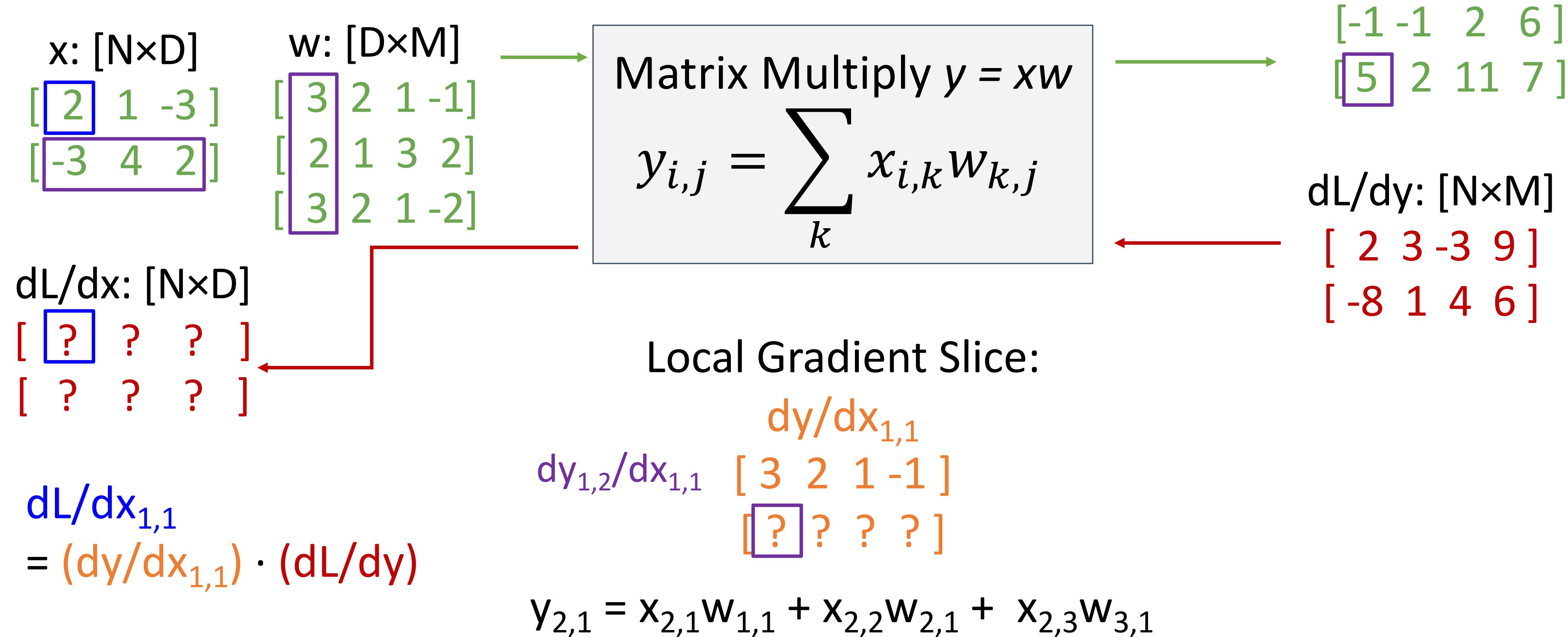
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



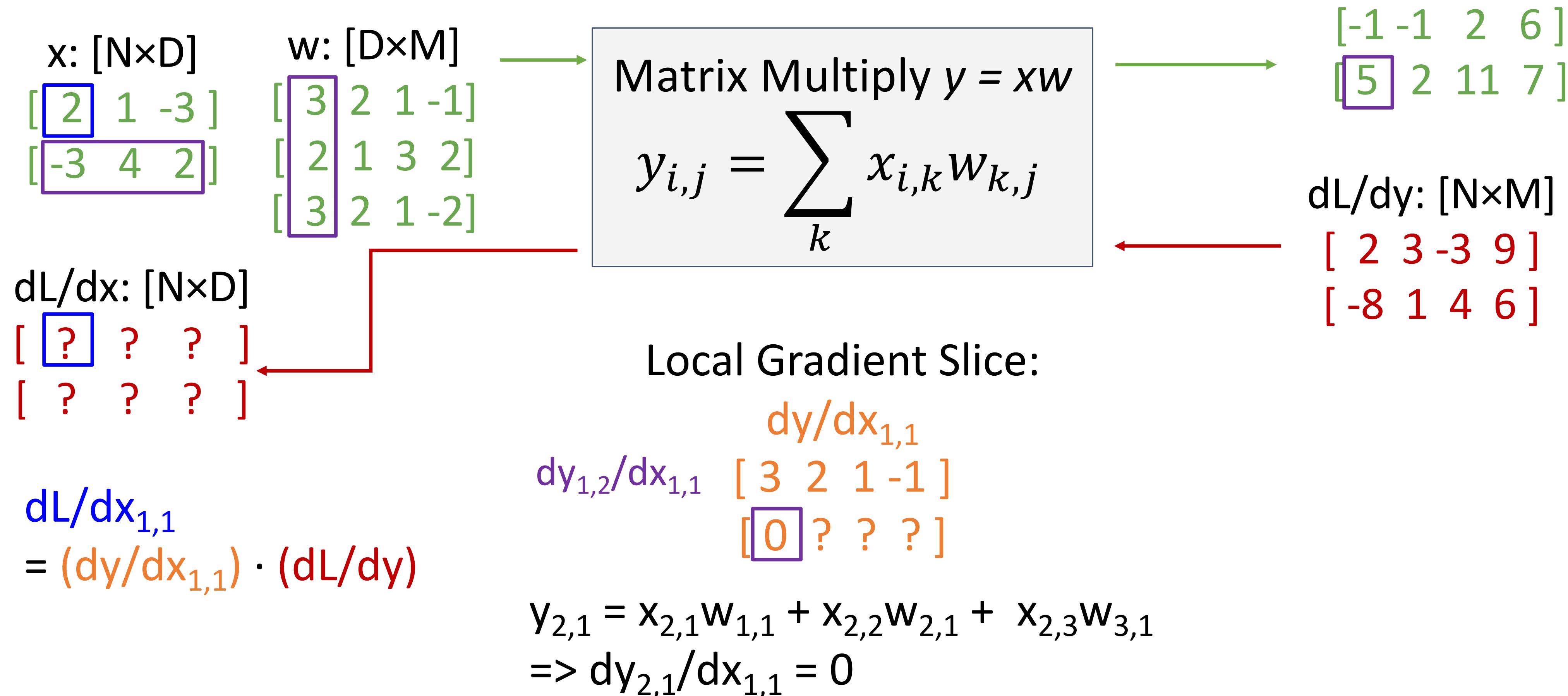
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



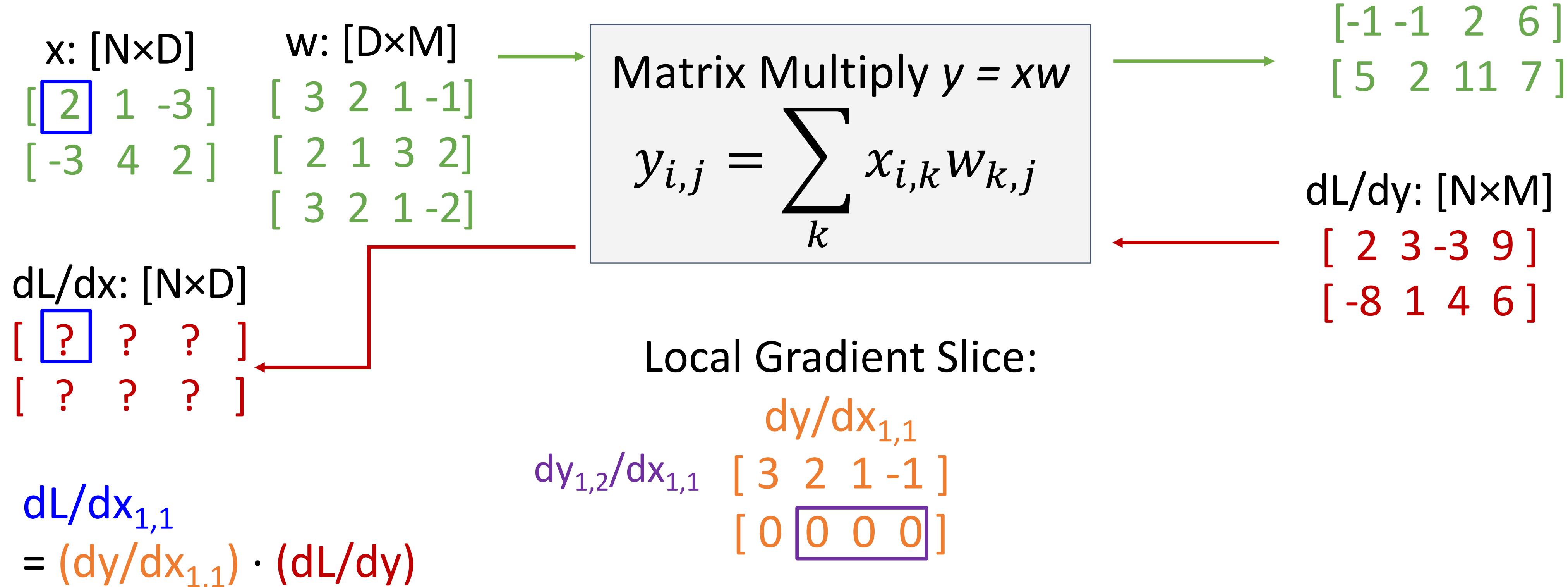
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



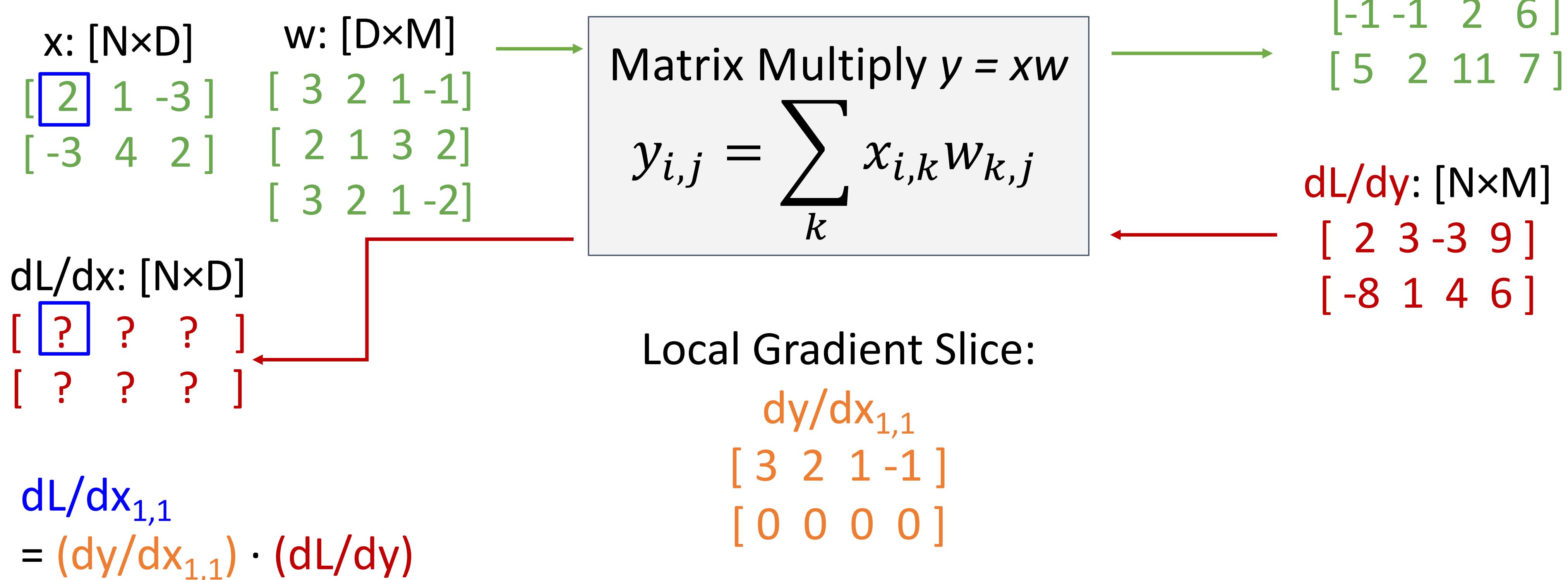
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



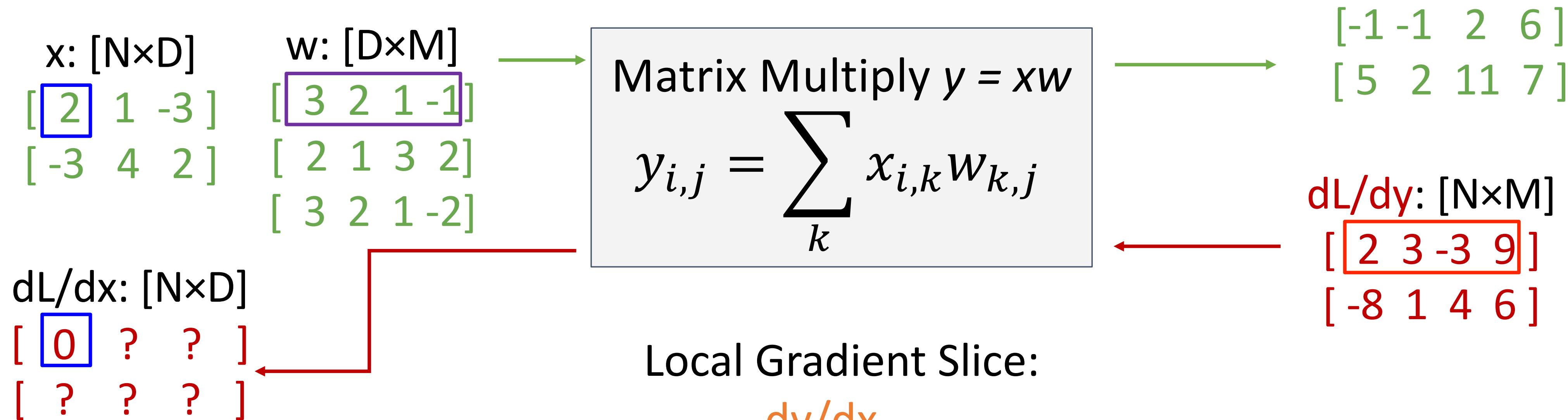
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



# Example: Matrix Multiplication

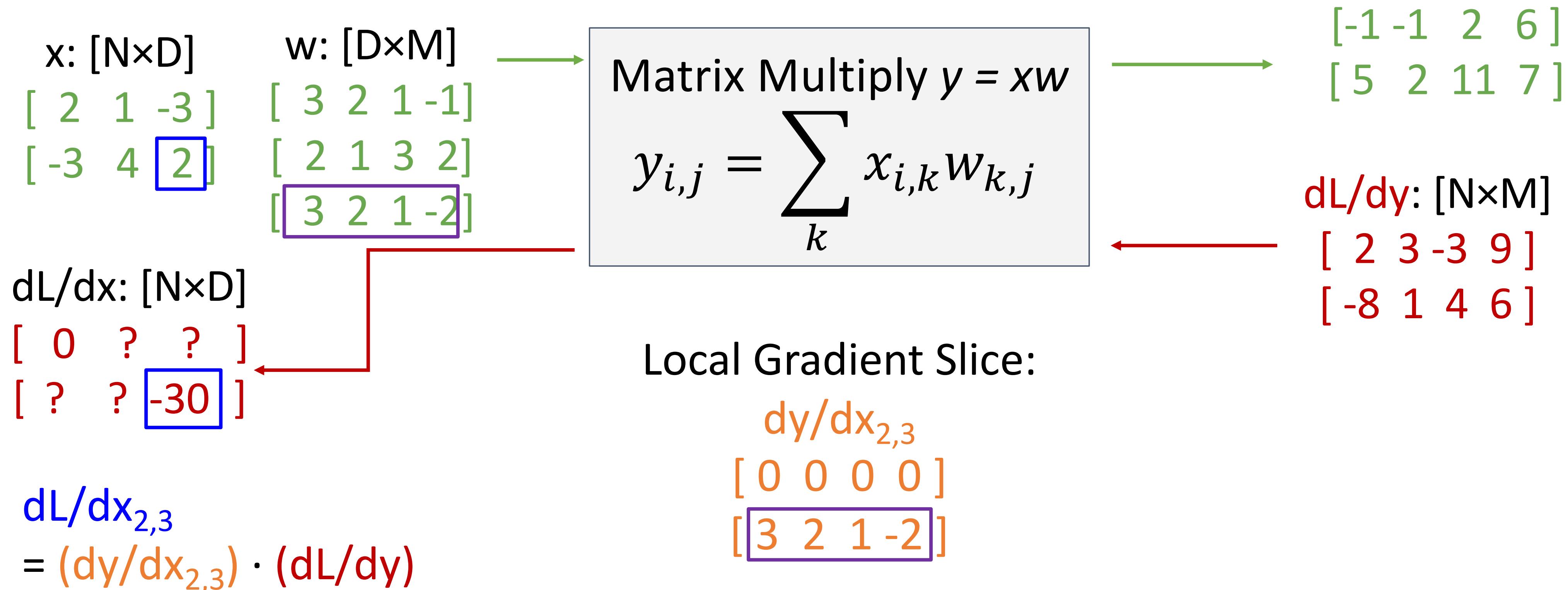


# Example: Matrix Multiplication

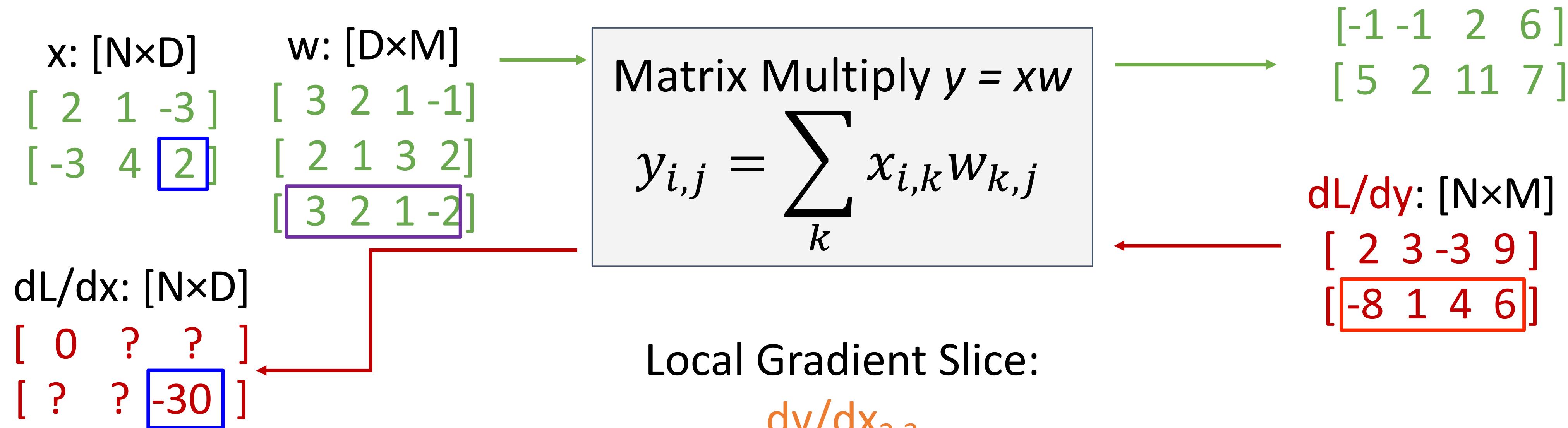


$$\begin{aligned}
 dL/dx_{1,1} &= (dy/dx_{1,1}) \cdot (dL/dy) \\
 &= (w_{1,:}) \cdot (dL/dy_{1,:}) \\
 &= 3*2 + 2*3 + 1*(-3) + (-1)*9 = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

# Example: Matrix Multiplication



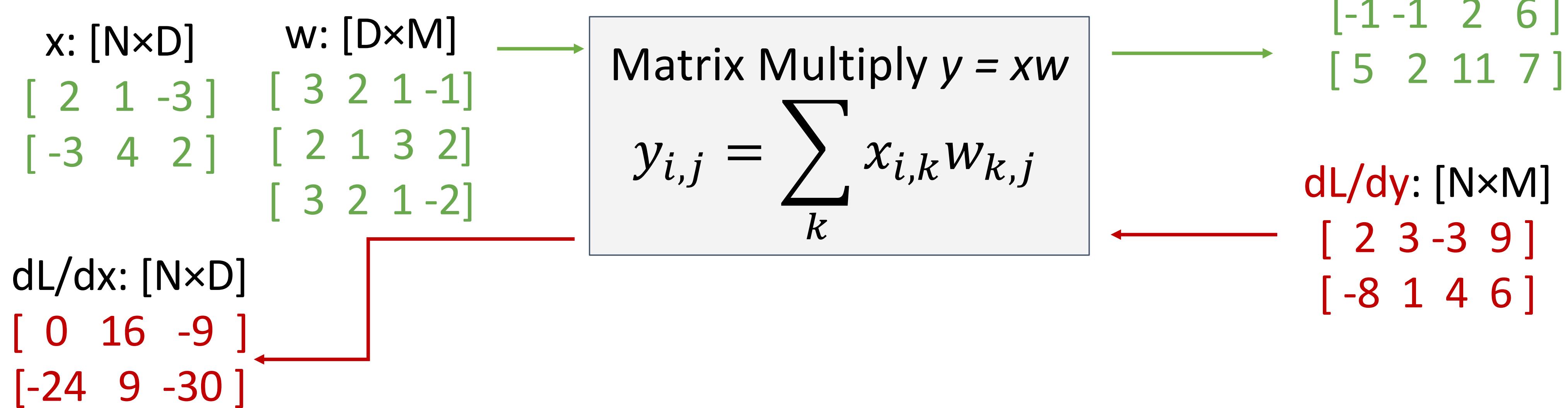
# Example: Matrix Multiplication



$$\begin{aligned}
 dL/dx_{2,3} &= (\frac{dy}{dx}_{2,3}) \cdot (dL/dy) \\
 &= (w_{3,:}) \cdot (dL/dy_{2,:}) \\
 &= 3*(-8) + 2*1 + 1*4 + (-2)*6 = -30
 \end{aligned}$$

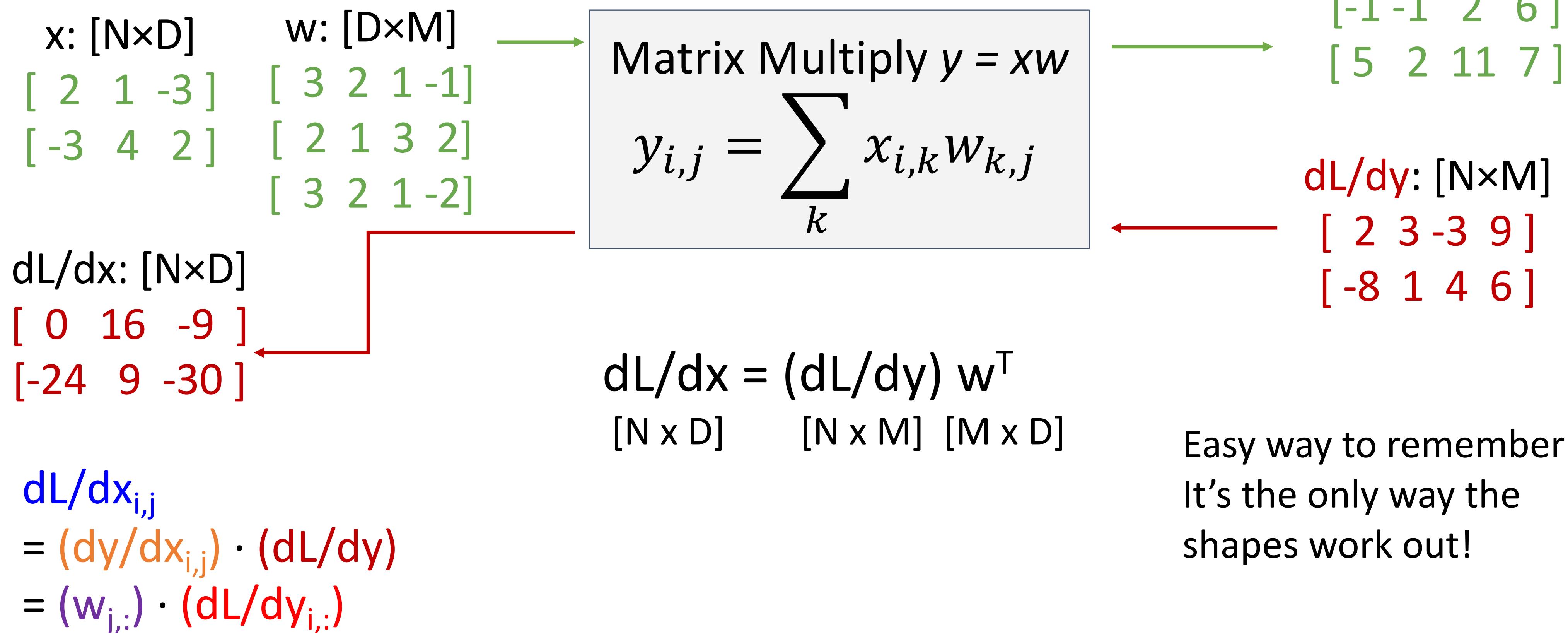


# Example: Matrix Multiplication



$$\begin{aligned}
 dL/dx_{i,j} &= (dy/dx_{i,j}) \cdot (dL/dy) \\
 &= (w_{j,:}) \cdot (dL/dy_{i,:})
 \end{aligned}$$

# Example: Matrix Multiplication



# Example: Matrix Multiplication

$$\begin{array}{l} x: [N \times D] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -3 \\ -3 & 4 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} w: [D \times M] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Matrix Multiply  $y = xw$

$$y_{i,j} = \sum_k x_{i,k} w_{k,j}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 2 & 6 \\ 5 & 2 & 11 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} dL/dx: [N \times D] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 16 & -9 \\ -24 & 9 & -30 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

$$dL/dx = (dL/dy) w^T$$

$$[N \times D] \quad [N \times M] \quad [M \times D]$$

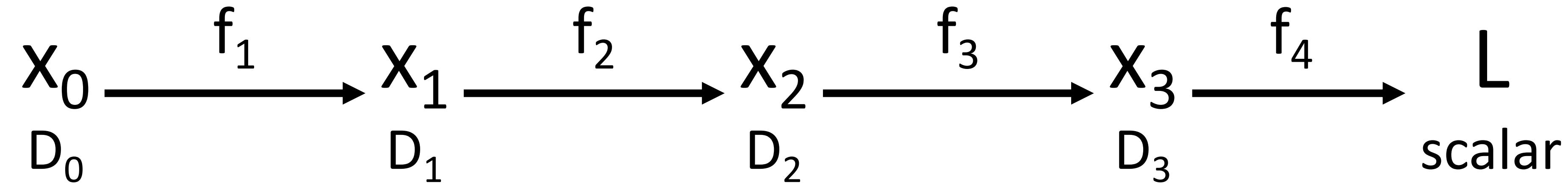
$$dL/dw = x^T (dL/dy)$$

$$[D \times M] \quad [D \times N] \quad [N \times M]$$

$$\begin{array}{l} dL/dy: [N \times M] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & -3 & 9 \\ -8 & 1 & 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

Easy way to remember:  
It's the only way the  
shapes work out!

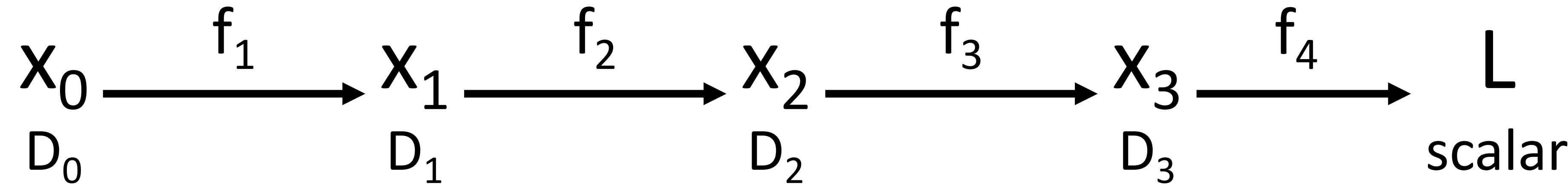
# Backpropagation: Another View



Chain rule

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_0} = \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3} \right)$$

# Backpropagation: Another View



Matrix multiplication is **associative**: we can compute products in any order

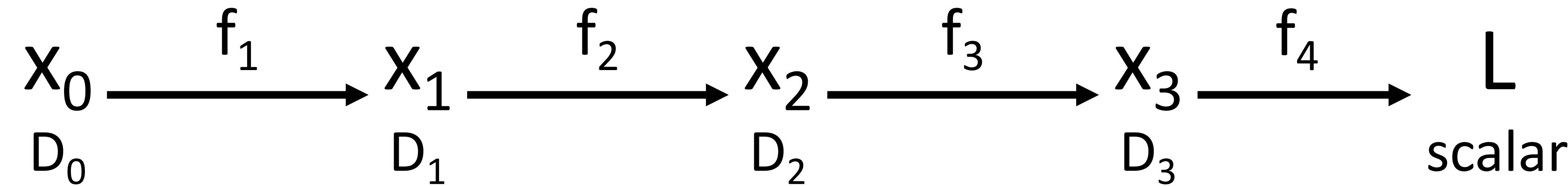
Chain  
rule

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_0} = \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3} \right)$$

$$[D_0 \times D_1] \ [D_1 \times D_2] \ [D_2 \times D_3] \ [D_3]$$

# Reverse-Mode Automatic Differentiation

---



Matrix multiplication is **associative**: we can compute products in any order

Computing products right-to-left avoids matrix-matrix products; only needs matrix-vector

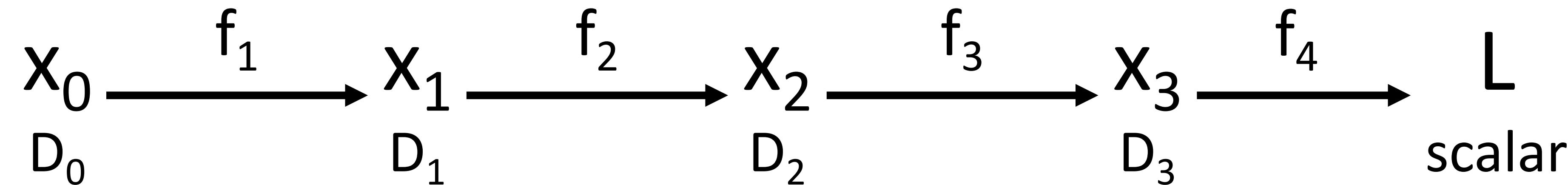
←

Chain rule

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_0} = \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3} \right)$$

$$[D_0 \times D_1] \ [D_1 \times D_2] \ [D_2 \times D_3] \ [D_3]$$

# Reverse-Mode Automatic Differentiation



Matrix multiplication is **associative**: we can compute products in any order

Computing products right-to-left avoids matrix-matrix products; only needs matrix-vector

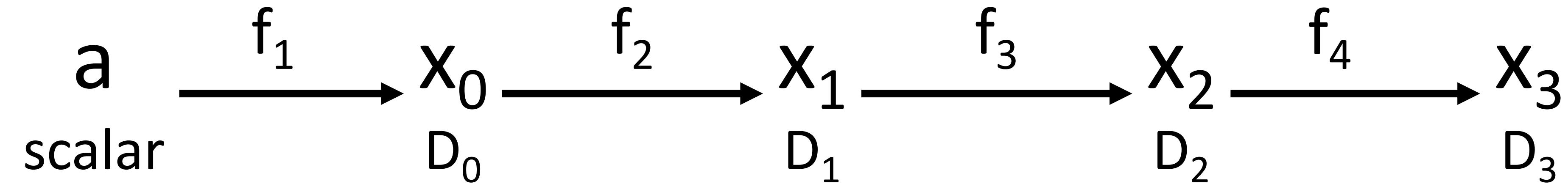
$$\text{Chain rule} \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_0} = \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right) \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3} \right)$$

Compute grad of scalar output  
w/respect to all vector inputs

$[D_0 \times D_1] [D_1 \times D_2] [D_2 \times D_3] [D_3]$

What if we want  
grads of scalar  
input w/respect  
to vector  
outputs?

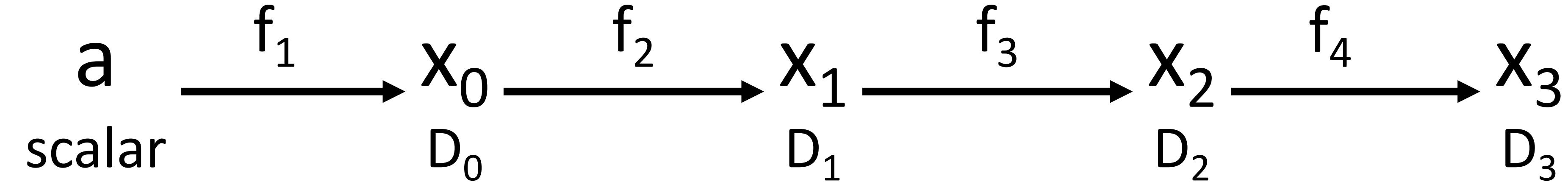
# Forward-Mode Automatic Differentiation



Chain rule 
$$\frac{\partial x_3}{\partial a} = \left( \frac{\partial x_0}{\partial a} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right)$$
$$[D_0] [D_0 \times D_1] [D_1 \times D_2] [D_2 \times D_3]$$

# Forward-Mode Automatic Differentiation

---



Computing products left-to-right avoids matrix-matrix products; only needs matrix-vector

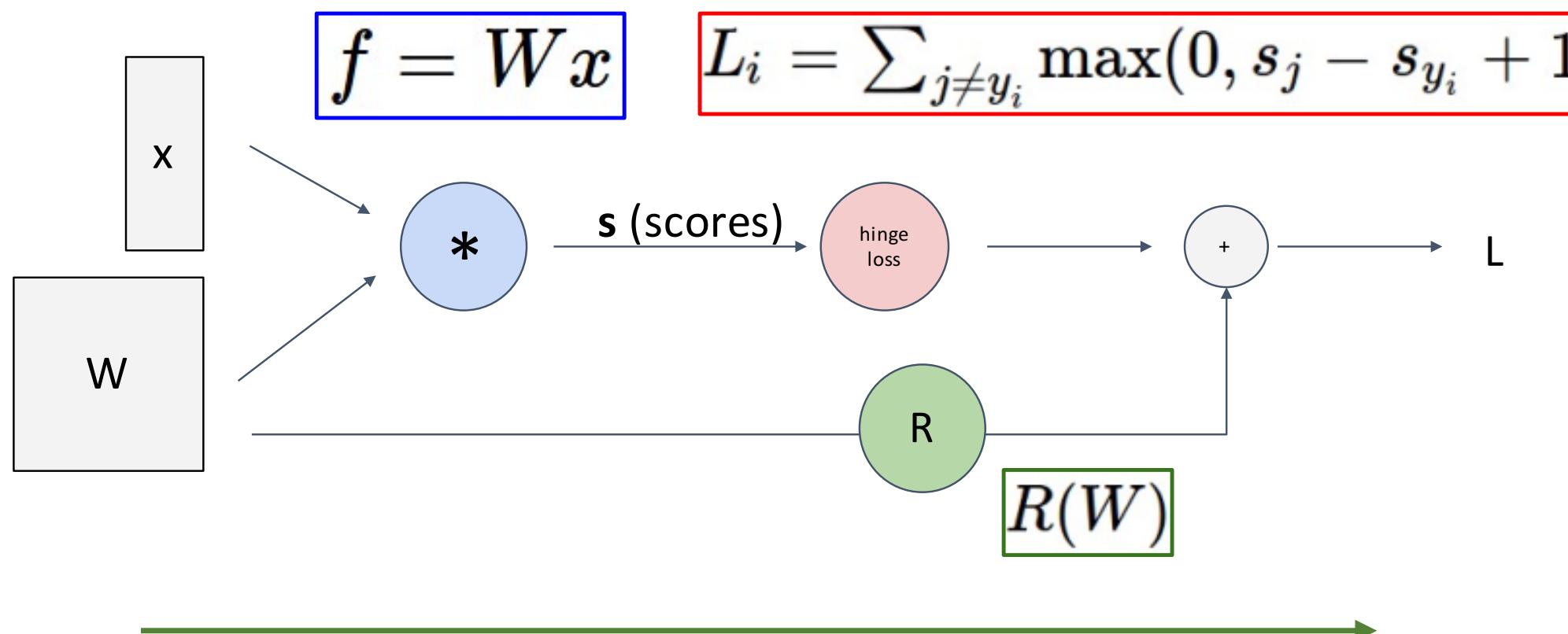
Chain rule

$$\frac{\partial x_3}{\partial a} = \overbrace{\left( \frac{\partial x_0}{\partial a} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_0} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x_3}{\partial x_2} \right)}^{\longrightarrow}$$

$[D_0] \quad [D_0 \times D_1] \quad [D_1 \times D_2] \quad [D_2 \times D_3]$

# Summary

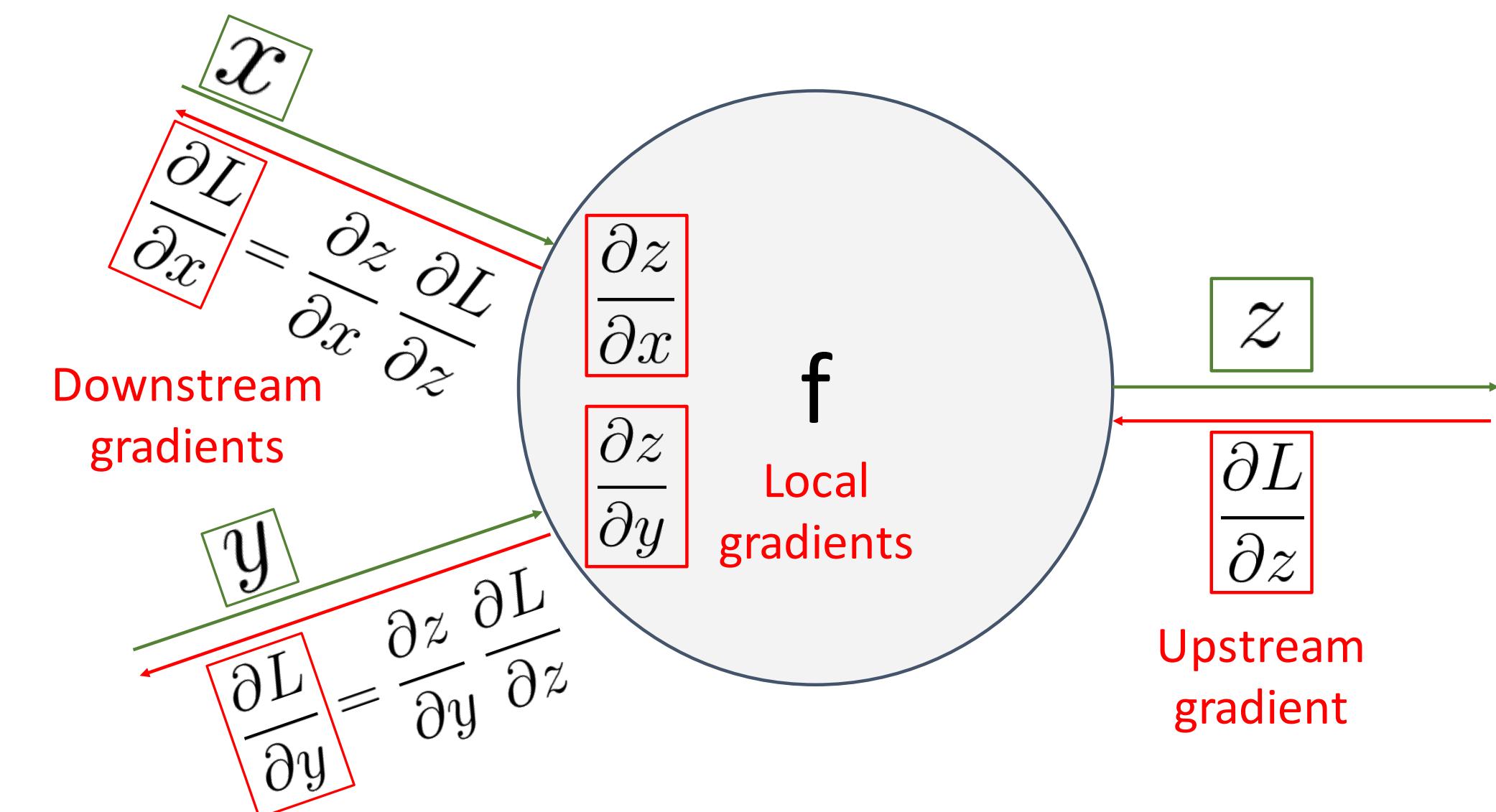
Represent complex expressions as **computational graphs**



Forward pass computes outputs

Backward pass computes gradients

During the backward pass, each node in the graph receives **upstream gradients** and multiplies them by **local gradients** to compute **downstream gradients**



# Summary

---

Backprop can be implemented with “flat” code where the backward pass looks like forward pass reversed (Use this for A2!)

```
def f(w0, x0, w1, x1, w2):
    s0 = w0 * x0
    s1 = w1 * x1
    s2 = s0 + s1
    s3 = s2 + w2
    L = sigmoid(s3)

    grad_L = 1.0
    grad_s3 = grad_L * (1 - L) * L
    grad_w2 = grad_s3
    grad_s2 = grad_s3
    grad_s0 = grad_s2
    grad_s1 = grad_s2
    grad_w1 = grad_s1 * x1
    grad_x1 = grad_s1 * w1
    grad_w0 = grad_s0 * x0
    grad_x0 = grad_s0 * w0
```

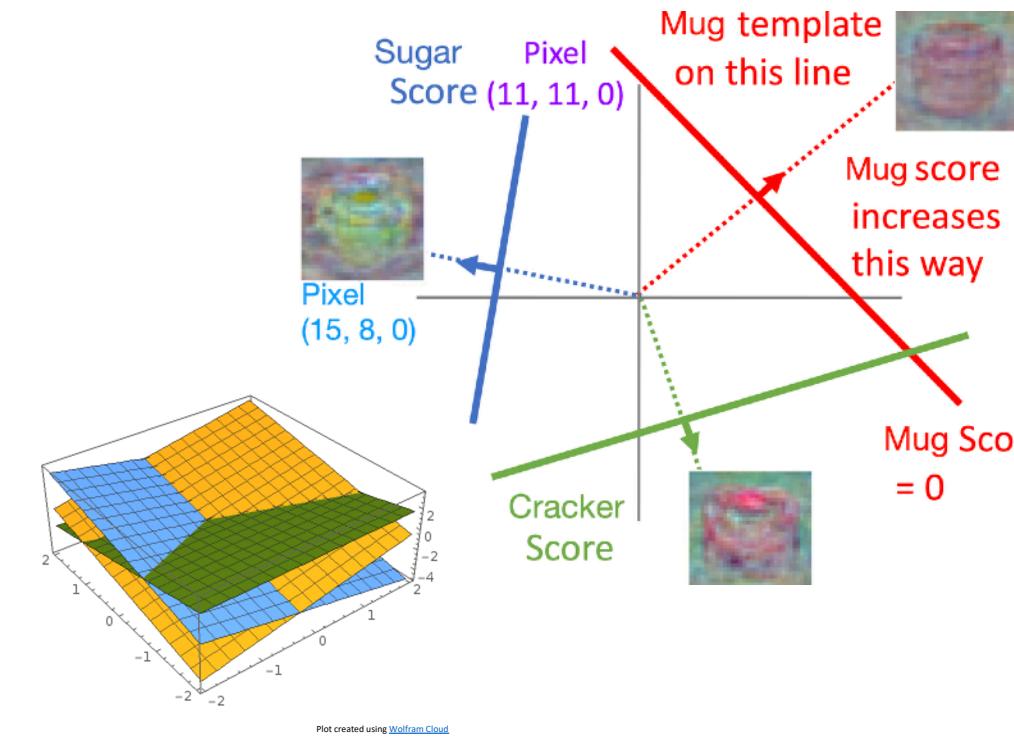
Backprop can be implemented with a modular API, as a set of paired forward/backward functions

```
class Multiply(torch.autograd.Function):
    @staticmethod
    def forward(ctx, x, y):
        ctx.save_for_backward(x, y)
        z = x * y
        return z

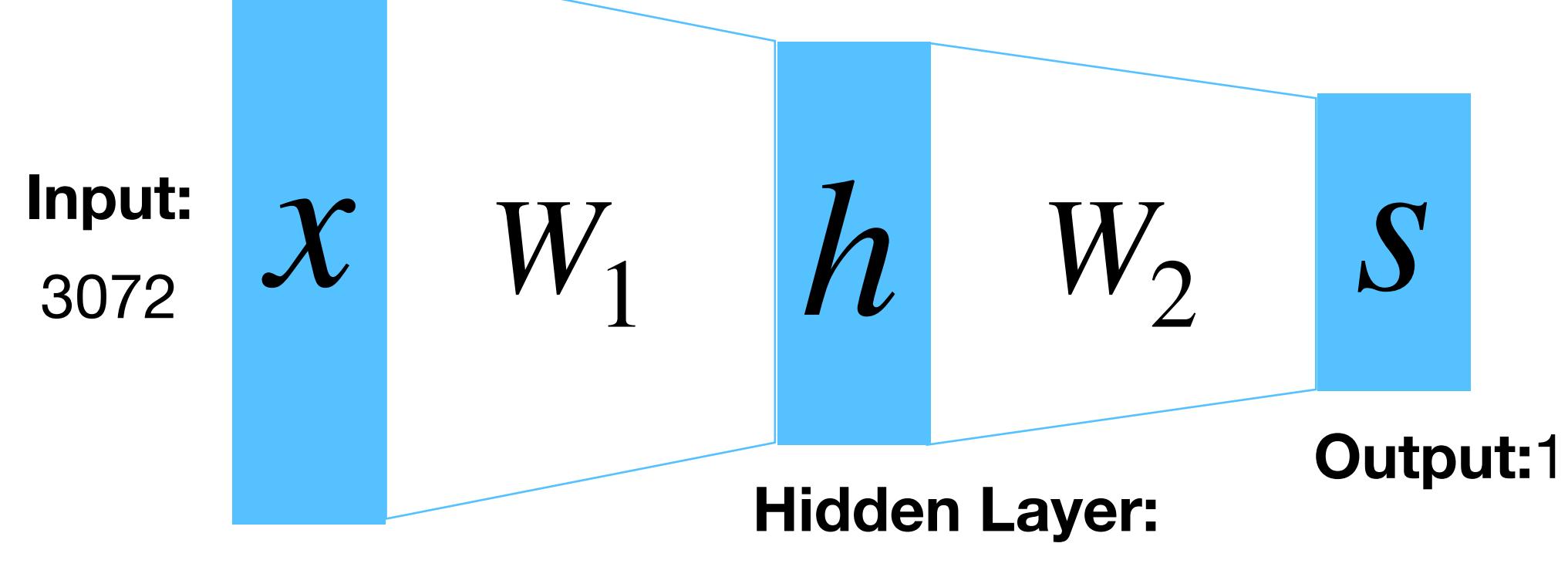
    @staticmethod
    def backward(ctx, grad_z):
        x, y = ctx.saved_tensors
        grad_x = y * grad_z    # dz/dx * dL/dz
        grad_y = x * grad_z    # dz/dy * dL/dz
        return grad_x, grad_y
```



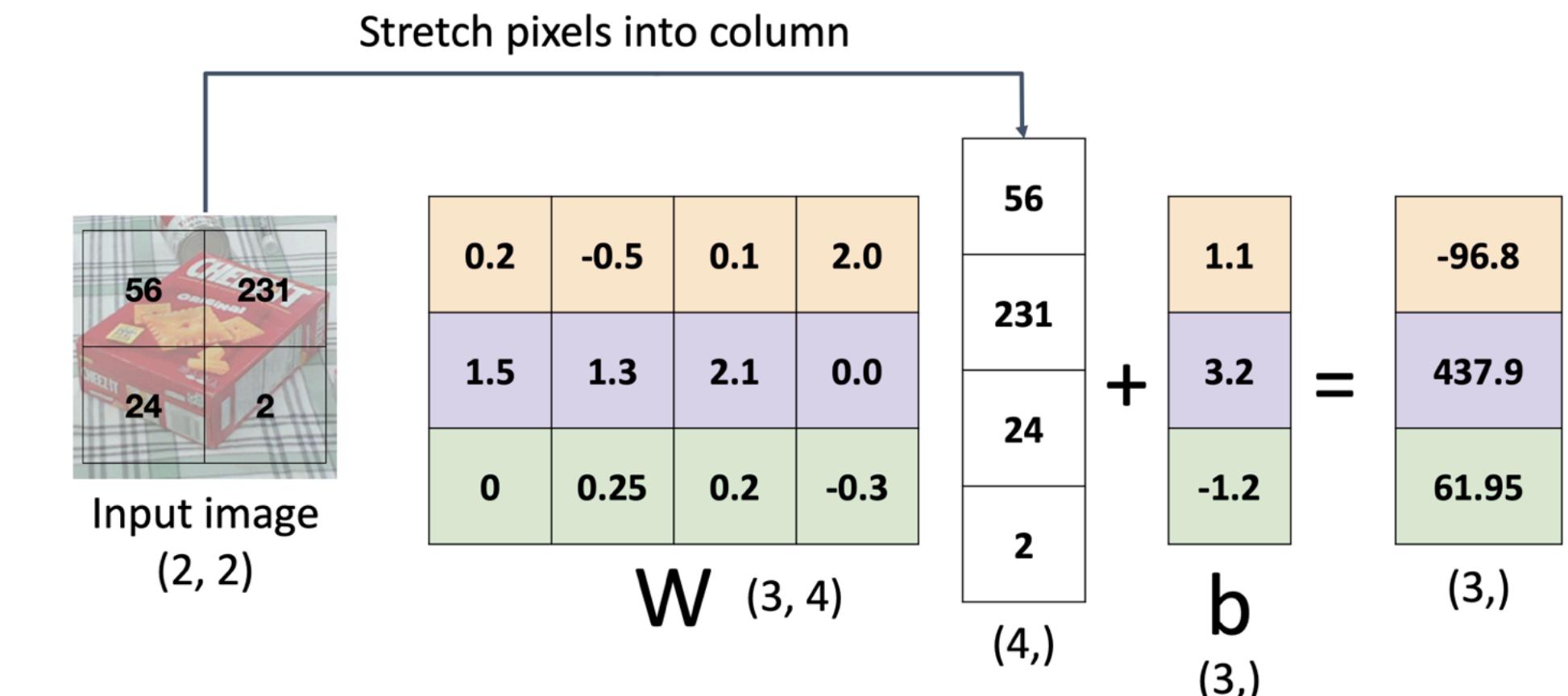
# Summary



$$f(x) = W_2 \max(0, W_1 x + b_1) + b_2$$



**Problem:** So far our classifiers don't respect the spatial structure of images!



# Next time: Convolutional Neural Networks



**DR**

# DeepRob

Lecture 6  
Backpropagation  
University of Michigan and University of Minnesota

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_1}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_2}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_3}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_4}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W_{\ell_5}}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \text{Out}}$$

